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Altar Stairs

A LITTLE BOOK OF PRAYER

BY

JOSEPH FORT NEWTON

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1928

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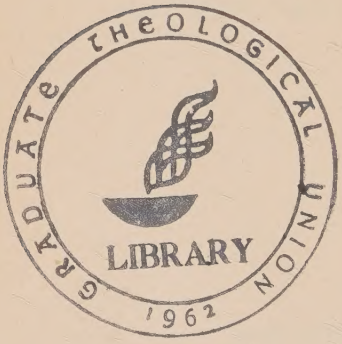

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TO ALL WHO, WEARY OF
SEEKING WITHOUT FINDING, ARE
WILLING TO WALK THE
QUIET WAY OF PRAYER, I
DEDICATE
A BOOK OF WORSHIP

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Invocation

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

God over All

To walk before Thee in the glory of a lighted mind, serving our fellow souls.

ETERNAL Spirit, as flowers turn their faces to the sun, as rivers seek their freedom in the sea, so our hearts turn to Thee in the ancient adoring habit of our race. Breathe upon us Thy Holy Spirit, that in the warmth of Thy love our minds may open to wisdom and beauty and the clear vision of Thy truth. Brood over our hearts, that our thoughts, our acts, our lives may move in kindness and patient obedience to the Will of Christ. Make this day holy with Thy presence, and bright in the fellowship of the truth that makes all other truth true.

Eternal Love, enter into our being and possess us; manifest Thyself to us as our Father and Redeemer. Show us that Thou hast need of our little lives to fulfill Thy purpose of righteousness, even as we need Thee to realize the fullness of life. Make our fairest vision of mercy and truth, of love and justice, so real, so commanding, that all that is within us shall

rise up and follow it. Endue us with power, with the insight to read Thy word in the facts and events of our day, and the courage to obey it, following even where we cannot see the way.

Eternal Goodness, grant us to walk before Thee in the glory of a lighted mind, serving our fellows with hands skillful and love-anointed. Dwell within us with the spirit of power and the deep peace of a triumphant hope; then we shall serve Thee in fruitfulness and joy. And when the day is done, and our work is ended, and the night falls, may the dimness of our evening be the dawn of Thy eternal morning. In His name, Amen.

The Eternal

Frail we are and fleeting, yet Thy face is mirrored in our dream.

O WISDOM profound past understanding, O Love unfathomable and unfailing, O Beauty ineffable and unfading; we worship Thee, O God, in wonder and adoration. We think of Thee until our thought grows faint and fails, like a bird beating its wings against the dawn: yet is Thy face reflected in our minds. We dream of Thee, O God, and our vision changes, now vivid, now vague, until it is lost in mystery: yet is Thy image in our dream, as a tiny dewdrop mirrors the sun.

O Eternal One, Thou art our life, our hope, our solace; we cannot go where Thou art not. In the homes we leave, in the journeys we take, in the ends of the earth, and in the unseen retreats of departed friends, Thy love is ever with us to guard and bless. As shadow-shapes flit across a field, so in Thy sight, O God, are the human generations that come and go: yet Thou hast set Eternity in our hearts and a vision that never fades. Thine is the glory forever! Amen.

God, All-Glorious

Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked in Thy light, and rested in Thy faithfulness.

ALMIGHTY Father, by Thy love we live, by Thy will we vanish; Thou art great beyond our knowing, and the number of Thy days is past finding out. Thou didst spread out the sky in its breadth and establish the mountains in their strength, and breathe Thy spirit into all living things: we can only stand in awe and consider the wonder of Thy works. Fill our hearts with praise in the daytime, and in the still night, with its awful canopy of stars, may the company of our thoughts bow down and worship Thee.

Thou Guide of faithful souls, do Thou preside over Thy people assembled in Thy name to praise Thee and to seek Thy truth. Be to each of us a blessing of quietness, that we may be still and know that Thou art God our Father, the nearest of all Companions, the dearest of all Friends. Purify us, O Lord, with Thy purity; let our prayer come before Thee in simplicity and truth, tender with love,

radiant with joy. May all that is within us answer the call of Thy will, and follow whither it shall lead.

Not of our worthiness, O God, but of Thy tender mercy, hear our prayer, and answer it as may be best for the health of our souls. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked in Thy light and rested in Thy faithfulness; be to their sons our help for to-day, our hope for the morrow, our joy forevermore. God, ever-blessed, we lift our hearts to Thee, in the faith and spirit of Jesus. Amen.

The Watcher

"I will teach thee the way; I will guide thee with mine eye."

O GOD Eternal, how solemn and wonderful it is to live under Thy constant eye, moving toward Thy vast eternity. In the stillness of the night Thou keepest watch over our souls; and if we rise early Thou art awake, waiting to bless our morning prayer. No faintest approach of evil but is known to Thee, and no sorrow befalls us that Thou dost not feel.

Teach us, O Lord, of Thyself; show us that our purest love is from Thee, and that Thou lovest us better than we love ourselves. O Awakener of our souls, Inspirer of the prayers we offer, Giver of the truth Thou hast made us to love and seek; guide us in the way Thou wouldst have us go, until the night is gone and we awake in Thy likeness. In His name, Amen.

The Wonder of Life

To begin, from the height of a prayer, to live as becomes the sons of the Most High.

LORD of Life and Love and Beauty, help us to worship Thee in the holiness of beauty, that some beauty of holiness may appear in us. Quiet our souls before Thee with the stillness of a wise trust, and a sense of being not in our own hands, but in Thine. Lift us above dark moods and the shadow of sin, that we may begin to-day, from the height of a prayer, to live as becomes the sons of the Most High.

Thine, O Lord, is this mortal life of ours, brief as a tale, frail as a vapor that vanishes away. As the vapor floats in the everlasting sky, and, vanishing, melts into it, so may our lives mingle with Thy life, and our wills with Thy will. Help us to find in our fleeting day, through cherishing within us the filial and brotherly heart of Jesus, all the divine discipline and education it is fitted to yield. If at any time no light shines upon it for

us, grant that some light may shine through it for others.

Lord, we thank Thee for the years gone by, despite our sins, during which we enjoyed the sunlight and passed under the cloud; and in which, though many dreams were shattered, our souls were not left unnourished. O Thou who hast led us along the strange path of the soul, often in ways we knew not, grant us to finish our course in honor, and be ready to enter upon what Thou mayest have in store for us beyond, of further labor or deeper rest.

O God, we bless Thee for the joy of life, the wonder of love, the discipline of labor and sorrow, the glory of struggle and adventure. Life is a capacity for the highest; help us to make it a pursuit of the best—a winged and singing life in Thee—through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all good life. Amen.

Leisure of Soul

"They that wait upon the Lord shall run and faint not."

O GOD our Father, who hast set us to serve Thy holy will in the midst of hurrying days, grant us quiet and poise of spirit, and a mind at home in Thee. Teach us a habit of deep leisure of soul, which is time spent in eternity, free from the tyranny of things and the passing shows of the world. Help us to practice Thy presence in joyous communion, to gain thence fresh insight into eternal values and new stores of grace and power for a wiser service to our fellow men. Build us up in Thy own nature; endue us with Thy peace that our labor may be unhasting and unresting. May we learn of Him who, nourished by nights of prayer, went about doing good; even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Common Prayer

Let not the hardness of the world harden our hearts, lest the vision fade.

ETERNAL Father, who art the inspirer of prayer and its answer, unite our hearts in the mystic communion of worship. Make our minds sanctuaries of Thy light and Thy truth; touch our aloofness that we may be joined in the joy of fellowship and the beauty of holiness. Here may we find healing for the past and help for the future, refuge from foreboding and strength for each new-born duty. Let not the hardness of the world harden our hearts, lest the vision fade and we lose our way in the dark.

Lead us to Thy holy hill, whence we may see afar Thy wise purpose working in mysterious ways through human pain and tragedy to divine ends. Show us that Thy weakness is stronger than our strength, and that Thy kingdom is slowly emerging out of the welter of passion and confusion in which we labor. Train us, O Lord, in humility of spirit, and grant us the moral dignity and spiritual liberty be-

gotten of simple trust in Thee and faithful service of our fellow souls.

Hear our common prayer for all who are beshadowed by sorrow, tormented by temptation, or baffled by perplexity. O Thou Solver of human problems, Thou Comforter of all who mourn, may our helplessness be Thy opportunity and our deep need Thy open door. Lord, we ask not for escape but for inspiration, not that our burdens be lifted, but that we may be made strong to bear them. Reverently we wait upon Thee—move upon our spirits like a soft wind from a sunnier land. In His name, Amen.

The Sabbath

"This is the day the Lord hath made, blessed be His name."

HOLY Father, all days are Thine, made holy by Thy light and Thy love; but one day, set in the midst of our hurrying life, Thou hast dedicated to the dignity of spiritual being and the praise of Thy holy name. Lord, may it be Thy day in our hearts; a truce with doubt and care, an armistice with temptation, an hour of vision and understanding, as we look up from the flats of the actual to the heights of the ideal; from the valley of fear and illusion to the hills of God whence cometh our help.

Heavenly Father, as we sing the songs of the saints, and read old and blessed words from the Book of Vision, grant us, we beseech Thee, an inward strength and stillness; that, being purified by Thy grace, and loving one another, we may worship Thee in the fellowship of the Spirit. Vouchsafe, O Lord, a day of beauty and benediction, in which many voices shall be gathered into one sovereign harmony, praising Thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Things That Endure

The prayer of one who needs Thee for many who have a like want and longing.

THOU haunting Presence, Thou ineffable Loveliness, by whose grace we live; we who walk a dim path through unknown years pray for Light, lest we wander into a tangled way. May we be of those who, willing to do Thy will, know the Truth that maketh the soul free from the error that blinds, the doubt that darkens, and the fear that weakens. Grant us an echo of the melody that abides, while the noises of earth follow the feet that made them into Silence.

Amidst so much that is fleeting, we bless Thee for the things that endure, for the guidance of the great Hand in which we stand; for the Faith that grows, the Love that deepens, and the Hope that enfolds; for the Ideal that beckons us to a life of honor and service; for the dear love of Friends and Comrades; and for the holy voices whispering in our hearts. For the wonder of life, and for its shadows, too, we humbly praise Thee, know-

ing that Thou leadest us in ways we know not, and that to follow is to learn why.

Hear the prayer of one who needs Thee in behalf of many who have a like want and longing; for we cannot carry our burdens, day by day, without Thy help. We pray for our brethren who are in great sorrow, for those who are discouraged, for those in the House of Pain, and for all who walk a shadowy way in the loneliness which death makes when it passes near. We pray for those who cannot trust the highest, because they are haunted by something lower than the best; for those at odds with the world and at war with their own hearts.

Of whom else can we ask so much, assured that He is willing and able to do more than we can ask or think? Complete our spiritual endeavors; fulfill our imperfect and struggling good. At last, having walked the human way, let us stand upright at Thy door, looking to see the Face long desired, the Face of unutterable Love, and the bright forms we have lost in the midst of the years. In His Name, Amen.

The Prophets

"Tell me, I pray thee, where is the house of the seer?"

O GOD of Light and Truth, in a strangely tangled time, when confused cries echo through the world, we pray for the leadership of faith. Hear our prayer for the prophet-vision and the light of the moral mind, lest we lose our way and wander in the dark. Thou Mighty Seer, send us men endowed with the grace of insight, the gift of interpretation, and the accent of command. Speak to Thy people, O Lord, for without vision they become a mob and perish.

God of the Prophets, give us men who share Thy vision of eternal values, and are not afraid of the loneliness of following the highest they know. Show us the shame of the second-best, the bitterness of a joy bought at the cost of a mean timidity. O God, let Thy living word have saving power among us, rebuking our sin, working in us the miracle of love, and leading us out of the night into a new day of the Lord Jesus. In His name, Amen.

All Souls

"The word of the Lord came unto me saying, Behold, all souls are mine."

O GOD, the Eternal Goodness, we praise Thee for all souls that struggle and aspire, of every age and every faith, who have found victory by surrender to Thy will. For the patriarchs who made great adventures of faith, for psalmists and prophets who listened to Thy voice, for the martyrs who lived in Thy love and died in Thy service, for all the unknown moral heroes of the race, we give thanks. Help us to live in their bright fellowship, that we may enter into their vision.

Let Thy beauty be upon us, O Lord, transforming our lives from what we are to that which we ought to be, uniting us in a new love, a new grace of service, and a new happiness of obedience. Make us to know that between us and Thee there is nothing but our own blindness of heart, since Thou art so near and we are often so far away. Make us one with all Thy seekers and finders, that at last we

may be one with those who triumph over time and death by Thy grace.

Ever Thou art troubling us with a vision of a fairer, fuller life, whose urging we feel in the promptings of love, in the sense of the ideal, in wistful longings for the true. May we be attaining toward it continually, not with anxiety, but with quietness and confidence, until Thy beauty is revealed in us. Grant us so to live until the sun sinks, and let us not die without showing some faint likeness to Him whom we love and follow, the Savior of souls and King of saints. In His name, Amen.

The Seekers

"All hearts of prayer by Thee are lit."

THOU Holy One of Eternity, God of Love, Spirit of Joy, breathe upon us Thy deep peace; bless all souls who seek Thee in every land and every rite; by Thy love link into one Altar the Holy Places of all ages and peoples, that they may be renewed as centers of Light and Power and Beauty, hallowing mankind, each with the truth committed to it by Thee; and so enlarge our minds and enrich our hearts that in one fellowship we may worship Thee, the Eternal Goodness, God and Father of all, lifting up hands in Thy holy name. Amen.

All Saints *

"That ye may know the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

LORD, Thou hast made us for Thyself, and restless are our hearts till they find rest in Thee. Woe for us if we yearn for rest, as if peace and safety were with us, when as yet no true sign of holiness appears in us. Thou brightness of eternal glory, Thou comfort of the pilgrim soul, our very silence speaketh unto Thee. Oh, come; for without Thee there is no joyful day or hour.

Grant us, O Lord, ardently to desire, wisely to study, rightly to understand, and perfectly to fulfill that which pleaseth Thee. Let nothing live in our working mind but a naked intent to know Thee, a sharp dart of longing love which may never fail of the mark. Bestow upon us such happiness in Thee, O God, that Thy will may always be our will, Thy pleasure our pleasure.

* Words from the prayers of great Saints woven into a prayer for the Day of All Saints.

Harken unto our prayer, O God; hear our souls crying unto Thee, and grant that we may most truly love Thee. Nails would not have held God-Man to the Cross, had not love held Him there. In Thy love we put all our hope and refuge, on Thee we repose in all our tribulation and anguish; do Thou rescue us from every temptation, even to the end. Behold our needs; be Thou our prayer.

O God, suffer us not to fall, at last, through the extremity of bodily anguish to any lower thought than we have had in our hours of communion. O Lover of our souls, teach us that they who love Thee never meet for the last time; and when death hath taken off the mask, they shall know one another. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

The Beloved Community

"The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints."

LORD of Life, King of Love, Father of our Lord Jesus, in whom all faithful souls have fellowship in the mystery of the Cross; joyously we praise Thee for the company of the shining ones who, rejecting the evil custom of the world, obeyed the heavenly vision in lives of heroic moral beauty, and by Thy grace ascended in triumph from the dark fields of time; humbly beseeching Thee to grant us some measure of their vision and victory who, in weakness were made strong, in sorrow found sanctity, and in death were not dismayed; that our faltering lives may be lifted out of dim shadows of fatality into the light and power and joy of the eternal communion; in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Morning Sacrifice

Use our fleeting days to do Thy will; make our hearts shrines of Thy grace.

ALMIGHTY God, fountain of all good, kindle in us a pure flame of insight and aspiration, that this hour of prayer may be a moment of time lived in Eternity. Open our ears that we may hear; soften our hearts that we may receive Thy truth. Reveal Thyself to us here that we may learn to find Thee everywhere, in the world of law and its unveilings, in the wonder of life and its unfoldings. Teach us to find and follow Thee in the dark places of life, when we walk alone in temptation, or in the desolation of an unshared sorrow.

O Teacher of men, bestow upon us a mind without distraction and a purified understanding, that we may know that birth and death are but moments in the brightness of Thy presence. For the wisdom that is born of vision, for the redemption of our souls from the tyranny of sense and the dim shadow of unreality, we make our prayer to Thy loving-kindness. Rend

the veil of our minds; show us that the darkness that covers us is but a cloud half concealing a Love deeper than life, deeper than the mystery men call death.

Lord of Life, we pray Thee to build us up in Thine own nature in faith and faithfulness, in loyalty to the truth and in service to the ideal. Use our fleeting days to do Thy will; make our hearts shrines of Thy grace. Join our hands in the fellowship of the good life, making our short days notes in an eternal melody. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Evensong

"Abide with us, for it is toward evening."

GOD of Home and Altar, in the gloaming of the day we enter the sacred retreat of prayer; fulfill Thy promise to be with us when two or three meet in Thy name. May we know by the mercy of forgiveness, by the joy of fellowship, by minds full of a benign light, that Thou art very near. May a deep peace brood over our hearts, as the truths of faith become real in our worship.

God of the Amen, send us hence uplifted and purified by Thy Spirit, as those who needs must obey the highest when they see it. Help us to live nobly with one another, at home in Thy beautiful world, yet as pilgrims and strangers seeking a city, until the evening of life. Abide with us when darkness falls, till the day dawn and the shadows flee away. In His holy name, Amen.

Above Illusions

If we bow in weakness, bid us rise in the power of an endless life.

THOU great Companion, whom seek we here but Thee, whose loving-kindness is our strength in the daytime and our song in the night! Our loneliness, our perplexity, our hunger of heart draw us to Thee, who art the health of our spirits and the hope of our souls. Manifest Thy healing power and Thy forgiving mercy, that our evening prayer may come before Thee in simplicity and sanctity, and evoke in us a true penitence and the joy of a quiet hope.

Holy the custom, happy the providence, that, week by week, calls us together in the fellowship of prayer and praise. Here we confess our sins; here we face our ideals grown gray with the dust of care; here we renew our vows of love and service. God of our fathers, visit us with Thy revealing beauty; lift us above the illusions of time into the sanctuary of the eternal. Quiet our anxiety, and pour round our restlessness Thy rest, that

the weary and heavy-laden may learn Thy peace.

Endue us with the faith that makes men faithful, and the courage to trust the best we have known and the highest our hearts have hoped for. As we pray together, may life grow greater for some who have contempt for it, simpler for those who are confused by it, happier for those who are tasting bitterness, and more full of worth and meaning for us all. If we bow in weakness, in sorrow, or in depression of soul, bid us rise in the power of the endless life.

How rich is Thy grace, how far beyond our ken are the forces that are within Thy keeping! Show us that even in our bafflement and tribulation Thou art working in us some gracious blessing which we shall not perceive until it is fully wrought. Fulfill Thy will through us, that we may become citizens of the Kingdom of Light, and know the immortal life in the midst of mortality. In His name, Amen.

Adoration

A green valley where truth is like a song.

O PERFECT Love and Beauty, Light of all minds that seek Thee, Joy of all souls that love Thee; before the wonder of Thy Being our souls bow down in adoration and awe, invoking the loftiest thoughts of Thy truth and the purest visions of Thy love; that our prayer may hallow Thy name in our hearts, and lead our spirits, if only for a moment, out of the shadows of time into Thy clearer presence, where truth and beauty blend in a fellowship ineffable and a praise unutterable; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Armistice Day

Let us not be guilty of the worst of all sacrileges—the waste of sacrifice.

O GOD Eternal, on a day of holy and high remembrance we worship and bow down in humble awe and longing. How strange, how terrible, are Thy ways upon the earth, as Thy mighty will fulfills itself amid the tumult of humanity. Through years dark, dreadful and confused Thou didst lead us to this day; Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory; be it ours to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before Thee. God of righteousness, be Thou our refuge and redemption.

At Thine altar, O God, we remember the heroism of men and the fortitude of women in a time of terror and trial: those who endured with valor, those who suffered with patience, and those who gave all, even the sweet blood of youth, for a better day. God of Mercy, let us not by carelessness or indifference be guilty of the worst of all sacrileges—the waste of sacrifice. Move upon our minds, and the

minds of men everywhere, that a nobler spirit and a clearer vision may rule our thoughts and ways.

God of Justice, make us just in mind and spirit, that the kingdoms of the world may become the Kingdom of Justice. We pray not for a peace of ease, but for the peace of righteousness and good will, and the moral love that fulfills itself in fellowship. Comfort Thou Thy people; guide our groping humanity out of chaos into brotherhood. Enlighten our darkness; let ignorance, oppression and envy cease, and heaven and earth be joined in praise of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Unity and Peace

Give peace, O Lord, in our time.

O HOLY Spirit of God, Rebuker of sin, Revealer of truth, Prevailer with the souls of men; Thou Creative Wisdom and Redeeming Love, hear our prayer, we humbly beseech Thee, for the unity of the Church and the peace of the world. Open our eyes that we may behold Thy truth, cleanse our hearts that we may receive Thy love; bestow upon us largeness of mind and a purified understanding, that mankind may be redeemed from bigotry and brutality into the light of Thy truth and the fellowship of Thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Way of Peace

Stay our hands, till we are delivered from the bondage of hate and fear into the light of love.

O GOD, our help in ages past, our hope to-day and forever, have mercy upon our humanity in its blindness, its bitterness, and its confusion. Thou who hast granted to our age to discover such wonders of Thy mind and such mysteries of Thy handiwork as to give man such vast power for good or ill, let us not use Thy beautiful power for cruel and unworthy ends. Stay our hands, and teach us to use Thy power to serve Thy holy will on earth.

Deliver us, O Lord, from lust of power, from vanity of spirit, from envy, apathy, and ill will; fill our minds with wisdom from above which is pure, peaceable, and full of mercy. Touch our minds with light, that, having a right understanding, we may have compassion, and courage, and patience—working with Thy help for the better order of the ages. Create in us a clearer insight, a juster and

wiser spirit, and by Thy spirit temper our minds to forbearance.

Bring the peoples of humanity—aye, bring each of us—to a sound mind and a kind heart; restore good will and mutual trust. Visit not upon our children the horror of an age whose spirit was not steadfast with Thee. Lead us in the ways of justice and honor, in the paths of truth and brotherly kindness, till we are delivered from the bondage of hate and fear into the light of love. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Community

"And I saw the Holy City descending from above."

ALMIGHTY God, Father of Light, Fount of all Wisdom, who hast united us in families and communities, amid the needs, aims and ideals of a fraternity of neighbors; we remember before Thee all who lead and guide the affairs of our common life, teachers of the young, ministers of faith, officers of the law, men of business; those who work for justice between man and man, between class and class, for health, charity and the furtherance of good will; humbly beseeching Thee that we may have a clear vision of a pure social life, and the grace to pursue it loyally; that our community in its arts, its music, its religion, its trade and daily life may be found to be following that which is beautiful and good; to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Divine Hauntings

Whence these strange longings, and an awful stillness which we almost fear?

O LOVE of God, why do we seek Thee afar off when Thou art the life of our lives and the love that yearneth in our hearts? Whence these strange longings which prompt us to prayer, and an awful stillness which we almost fear, if it be not that Thou art moving behind our minds? Who but Thyself could evoke such desires, such hauntings, and how dare we draw back and refuse to obey? Lord, art Thou so near, and we so dull as not to know the gentle ways of Thy spirit?

Thou Infinite Nearness, teach us that the dreams of the soul are more to be trusted than all the wisdom of the world. Forgive our foolish distrust of what is most heavenly, our fear of what is most holy; help us to yield our hearts gladly, utterly, to Thine impulse within us to love, to forgive, to sacrifice. What wonder that our eyes are filmy, that we cannot see Thy truth, when we are unwilling

to make the adventure to become what we pray to be?

Grant us, Lord, this one prayer, in which all our hearts unite: that we may love Thee truly, trust Thy spirit which subdues our hearts to worship, and serve Thy will as Thou givest us to see it. Set Thy truth in our thought above all shifting passions, and Thy love above all mutations of mood and desire: amid all trial makes us, by Thy grace, triumphant souls. May life and death and all that lies between, and beyond, draw us nearer, O God, to Thee. In His name, Amen.

Everyday

The highest vision and the humblest task.

O GOD, whose splendor fills the world, yet who revealest Thyself in the song of a bird, in the face of a flower, in a cup of cold water given to a brother man; teaching us thereby that nothing set for us to do is so small that it may not be glorified in Thy name, if we bring the highest truth to the humblest toil; mercifully grant that all our purest visions may ever tend to the plainest duty, and our holiest aspirations touch and transfigure the tasks of every day; that we may serve Thy holy will, not fitfully, but in constancy and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Autumn Splendor

Mist and mellow fruitfulness; prayer the flower of pathos, joy the bloom of beauty.

THY Beauty, O God, is upon us; autumn splendor everywhere! Days lucid with vision, or dim with mist, haze and smothered sunshine; nights wistful with summer memories. The trees are touched with ripe, mellow colors, and the leaves begin to fall and flutter away, as frail as the generations of men. The birds are going south, following a viewless path—like the homing instinct in the soul of man.

Lord, we thank Thee for beauty: in its soft enchantment matter and spirit join, Time and Eternity blend. Let our thankfulness be the flower of thoughtfulness, and our prayer the fruit of joy. Who does not hear an autumn anthem singing low in his heart! Help us, O God, to make the life of man as lovely as the world in which he lives; the brotherliness of humanity equal to the beauty of nature.

Thou hast made our life a summer

sowing, an autumn harvest, and a great white winter; too short for hate, and only long enough for the love that lifts the load we all must bear. Oh, teach us to toil while we may, and do somewhat of good before our spirits take their flight on wings homeward bound—doves at Thy window. Amen.

An Untrodden Way

May Thy laws become our songs in the house of our pilgrimage.

O GOD, Thou hast set before each of us an untraveled way, full of mystery, pathos and beauty; grant us Thy kindly light to lead us. To Thy young servants give a morning vision of Thy purpose for their lives; and to us who are older grant a return to the wonder which was the glory of our youth and which, as we beheld it, brought Thy light into our hearts. Oh, let not the wonder fade, or the light become darkness, lest we lose our way.

Help us, O God, to bring to our aid Thy light as it shines in all the great souls Thou hast sent to guide us on an untrodden way; but most clearly in Him who is the Way. Show us, O Lord, that our little life is great because it has been given us by Thee, because it is accompanied by Thee, and because, at the end of an unknown way, it is to be received by Thee, in Thy Fatherly Love, in a House not made with Hands. In His name, Amen.

Thanksgiving Day

For seedtime, summer, and autumn harvest; and the growth of pity and justice among men.

LET us give thanks! For the old, sweet fashions of nature, for the ritual of its seasons, for the wonder of seedtime, summer and autumn harvest; for the stores of material good for our use and blessing; for the spur of necessity which impels industry; for the sky over all, deepening as we gaze, and for that other heaven within, which widens into strange distances.

Let us give thanks! For the old world-road along which we journey, trodden by so many feet before us; for the flowers of Divine grace and human kindness along the way; for the thorns that require careful handling, and the disciplines and tasks that train us for strength and honor; for the Kindly Light that leads us, for the love that heals our hurts and the mercy that lifts us when we fall.

Let us give thanks! For our country and its laws; for home and family and the dear love of comrades; for the sorrows that subdue us to sobs

and weld us in love unto our kind; for the growth of pity and justice in the hearts of men; for the increasing purpose of good will running through the years; for all teachers of art and insight who interpret to us the way and the will of the Eternal!

Let us give thanks! For the organization of life in education, art and character; for the fellowship of man in spiritual faith, moral endeavor, and the quest of truth; for the dream that love will one day everywhere prevail to the confounding of all unkindness, all uncleanness; for God the Father of all, who is the meaning of life, the home of the soul and the hope that "love can never lose its own." Amen.

Fruits of the Spirit

"I am the Vine, ye are the branches."

O GOD Ineffable, whom Jesus taught us to call Father, forgive, we pray Thee, our failure in past times, and grant us grace with one accord to offer the prayer Thou delightest to answer: that we may have hearts to love Thee truly, courage to be faithful in duty and steadfast in trial, moral insight to discern Thy holy will, and minds to seek Thy truth; that our lives may bear the fruits of the spirit, love, joy, purity, pity, through Jesus our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

The Rhythm of Faith

Let us not live on the low level to which toil tends to drag us down.

ETERNAL Father, Thou art the Love that never forgets, the Light that never fails, the Life that never ends; humbly we seek Thee in the fellowship of prayer. As we bow together the cares of life become easier to bear, and the lonely hurt of our hearts is healed by a great peace. Teach us to live always in the sense of Thy nearness and the vision of the infinite meaning of life, making trial of a great trust in Thee.

Behold us, folk of many families, one in our need and longing, and so purify and unite our spirits that we may be as the Body of Christ, wearing His seamless robe. Let us not live on the low level to which our toil tends to drag us down; lift us to the wider outlook of a quiet place of vision and service. Show us the wonder and beauty of life as it reveals its worth in the light of Thy truth and its prophecy in the light of Thy love.

O Thou who turnest the shadow of

death into morning, show us that in all disappointment Thou art near us, in all darkness Thou art enlightening us, in all temptation or sorrow or weariness Thou art still loving us. Incline our hearts to seek Thy truth and serve Thy holy will, that, having lived faithfully and reverently, we may rejoice at eventide when the shadows fall, knowing that in death Thou wilt give us life. In His name, Amen.

Truth and Life

"With all our heart and mind."

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, Author of Truth, Giver of Light, whose glory shines upon us in the splendor of the world; we humbly beseech Thee so to teach us the truth in life and the life in truth, that our prayer may be ordered in reason and offered in beauty; that, loving Thee with all our heart and mind, we may worship Thee in the name of Him who is the Truth; even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Advent Hope

An unconquerable hope of a desired, delayed, inevitable Day of Love and pity and joy.

O GOD, most merciful, Thou hast set in our hearts a haunting Hope, tremulous yet unconquerable, of a desired, delayed, inevitable Day when Love and Joy shall rule the life of man. Yea, Thou hast given us a token and pledge of Thy high purpose for our humanity, in Him whose sonship to Thee is the ground and prophecy that our dream, though delayed, will not be defeated.

Renew within us the high prophetic anticipations of our faith, the sense of a beauty ever about to be realized, of a victory ever about to be won; the hope, ever coming true, of the Advent of Christ. Recall Thy Church to its old expectant joy, that it may go forth to meet Him who comes glorious in blessing, and does not wait, when He seems to delay, for our coming to Him. Rebuke our dismay, and give us eyes to see that Thou art coming into Thy world to its final satisfying

peace; coming swiftly, gently, with the tread of the dawn.

Even so come quickly, O God; come Thou in us, overcoming our evil by Thy abundant goodness, casting out our fear by Thy love. Reign Thou in us, where fear and care and sin have ruled to our shame and undoing. Attune our life and labor to the rhythm of a great Hope, assured that Thou wilt yet have Thy way with us and with our tangled world; by the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

World-Feeling

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel."

INFINITE Father, Maker and Savior of the world, who hast made of one blood all men who dwell on the face of the whole earth, and hast sent us to tell the wonder of Thy love to all races and nations of men; so enlarge our minds and deepen our hearts, we pray Thee, that our love may be a world-feeling, and our sorrow a world-grief, until Thy light and Thy truth shine in all the dark places of the earth, and Thy saving love is the joy of all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Enter our hearts, that we may learn together what none may know alone.

O SPIRIT of God, melt any cold or sullen temper in our minds, and join us in the fellowship of faith and hope and worship. Unite our many prayers into one, each praying for all, that we may learn together what none may know alone. Lord, we wait upon Thee; the desire of our soul is to Thy name, and the remembrance of Thy mercy. Thou knowest the hard things required for our health, and which we try to escape; do with us as Thou wilt.

Many are Thy ways in dealing with us; past finding out is the strategy of Thy love, waiting in brooding patience when we wander away. Enter into our minds, O implacable Friend, by a hidden stairway known only to Thyself: mingle in our thoughts, a Presence to purify, a Light to lead, a Loveliness to transfigure. Minister to us in the stillness of Thy sanctuary; tell us those unutterable truths for

which our poor words were never made.

Send us into the crowded ways of life with hearts of compassion, and eyes to see Thee everywhere, in the beauty of nature, in the nobility of humanity; yea, in care-haunted faces, in lives misshapen, and in the cataract of events. Make us servants of Thy holy will, conscripts of the beauty we have seen in the face of Jesus. In His name, Amen.

The Book of Vision

Its strength is like the mountains, its gentleness like the voice of a mother.

EVER-BLESSED God, nearest of all teachers; Thou hast given us for our guidance a Book of Vision and Prophecy, rich in faith and radiant in hope. When we are weary it speaks to us of our rest in Thee; when we are sinful it heals even while it rebukes; when we are lonely it lifts us into Thy presence. Its strength is like the mountains, and its gentleness like the voice of a mother singing to her babe.

Lord, we thank Thee for a wise and deep-hearted Book that tells us that Thy goodness is over all, like the mercy of the morning and the tenderness of the evening. Help us to give our souls to its heavenly wisdom, its vision of the Unseen, its passion for righteousness, and its pity for man. Teach us to read it, love it, and live with it, until its spirit mingles with our spirit, making us pure of heart and fruitful in goodness.

O God, we praise Thee for old and

simple words of comfort and command; but most of all for Thy Word made flesh, walking among us in grace and truth. In Him was Life, and His life is the light of life, confirming our faith and fulfilling our dream. Reveal Thy Son in us; interpret Thy love to our hearts. O fashion in us the beauty of Him whose grace time cannot mar nor death destroy; even Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

The Pulpit

"Men whose hearts God had touched."

FATHER of our Lord Jesus, in Thy Church Thou hast set the holy and beautiful office of the Ministry, a witness for faith, a prophecy of the Life of the Spirit. To its service through the ages Thou hast called men of winged intellect and flaming spirit; self-spending sons of light and power and pathos, whose hearts Thou didst touch with fire from Thine altar.

Grant us, Lord God, in a new and difficult time, teachers of a like precious faith; men of revealing vision, voices of power melted by pity, fearless to rebuke and faithful to heal. Let it be so, O God, we pray, that the story of Thy love may be told to our hurrying time, wooing it from the semblance of life to homage for truth, beauty, and holiness. In His name, Amen.

The Word of God

To read Thy newer Word in the events, issues, and vast upheavals of our time.

THY Word, O God, is eternal; it runneth very swiftly. It is living, active, creative, a consuming fire, a revealing light, a sustaining power; eloquent beyond speech, searching like a flame. Heaven and earth may pass away but Thy word abideth, and will not fail of fulfillment. Man is as grass; the flower thereof withereth and falleth away, but Thy word endureth for ever. O give us ears to hear and hearts to heed Thy living word for our generation.

O God, behold us gathered at Thy feet; lift us to Thy heart and breathe upon us Thy Spirit of power, as of old Thou didst touch the lips of psalmists and prophets. They were men of like passions as ourselves, who wrestled with reality and learned Thy holy will for the days of old. In weakness they were made strong; in sorrow they found solace; in death they were not dismayed. Grant us,

Lord, a like victory of insight and understanding, we humbly pray.

Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may read Thy newer Word in the issues, events, and vast upheavals of our time, that, seeing Thy footsteps, we may follow and obey. None of us are content with what we have read; none are satisfied with what we have become. Speak, Lord, to Thy people a new and living Word, whose music shall touch with hope and joy each secret sorrow of earth; and to Thy glory shall be praise, in the name of Christ the Lord, Thy Word made flesh. Amen.

Leadership

"The work of the ministry, the edifying of souls."

O GOD, Shepherd of generations and Savior of souls, in troubled days Thy Church looks to Thee for men of leadership, endowed by Thy Spirit with vision, and able to make known Thy truth. Perplexed and oft misled, Thy people scatter and wander like an unshepherded flock. Confusion sits in their councils; give them men whose minds are bearers of Thy mind, whose wills follow and obey Thy will, and whose hearts are moved with compassion even as Jesus our Lord pitied the confused multitudes that gathered about Him. O God, give us men in whom Thou hast put Thy spirit, men set apart to holiness, whose faith is to weary hearts as the shadow of a great rock in a desert place; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Fellowship

Unite us in Thee to our brethren, and in our brethren more perfectly to Thee.

O SPIRIT of the Living God, it is Thee whom we need, if our life is to have worth and meaning and power. Lift up or cast down, give us life or death, only save us from that death in life of those who live, but live not in Thee; those who exist, but burn not, struggle not, conquer not. If Thou grant us life, let it be life indeed, life bright with Thy presence, holy with Thy goodness, and rich in the fruits of the spirit. Save us, O Lord, from adding one grain to the sin and sorrow of the world that are rising as a mountain before Thee.

Hear our prayer, O Mercy of God, for all whom our hearts remember; for the lonely and troubled of soul, for those tried by temptation or baffled by difficulty, and those for whom the light of life has gone out in the darkness of death. Endue them with a strength to bear, courage to walk erect and undismayed, and a patient faith to wait the full revelation of Thy will.

Keep us in the sanctuary of Thy stillness, and uphold us by Thy sustaining grace as we walk the way of discipline, lest the chastening of hardship make us hard of heart.

O Love Eternal, we would worship Thee in the fellowship of Thy seekers and finders everywhere, and know of a truth that the need of Thee that rises in our hearts is the prompting of Thy spirit. Unite us to Thee and in Thee to our brethren, and in our brethren more perfectly to Thee; that in lowliness of heart we may walk together in Thy way. Spirit of the mighty wind and the cleansing fire, conquer Thou and hold us to the service of Thy holy will. Admit us into the largeness, the freedom, the gentleness of the Mind of Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Christmas

Near us, even in our own city, is Christ the Savior, whom seeking we shall find.

ETERNAL Father, we thank Thee for a faith so high that it can link the far-off pilgrim stars with the cradle of a Little Child. Teach us that no hope vouchsafed to the human soul is too high, too holy, to be fulfilled by Thy love and power. Lift up our hearts this day and make us to know that the world is too small for the soul and its dreams. May we be faithful to Thy Morning Star by which we are led out of phantoms into realities!

Make us truly wise, with the wisdom of a Little Child, that the highest truth may be born in our hearts, shepherded by Love and Joy and Wonder. May we be brave to seek and faithful to find Thy truth—we who live in cynical days and need to keep close to the warm heart of life. Call us back from a wisdom that is not wise, because it is hard, untrustful, and doubtful of those starry ideals by which Thou art revealed.

Drive back the gray shadows which the years have cast over us, and let us see Thy guiding Star and hear a music not of earth. Let not our souls be busy Inns that have no room for Thee and Thine, but homes of prayer and praise, ready for Thy welcoming. Make us to know that near us, even in our city, is Christ the Savior, whom seeking with joy, we shall find. Humbly we offer our Christmas prayer in His name, Amen.

Home and Altar

"And Mary kept all these things in her heart."

FATHER-MOTHER God, in Thy mercy Thou didst not leave us to work out an unhelped and lonely destiny, but hast set our lives in the enshrinement of Divine and human love. How wonderful is the love that hallows the home, how holy and beautiful the sweet and dear custom of living together; for which we praise Thee and give thanks. If it were not for tender love on earth, how could we know that there is triumphant Love in heaven?

Forgive us, O Love of God, if we have sinned against the sanctity of that love which prophesies of Thee. If we have not kept the heavenly vision, if we have been blinded by passion, chafed by petty cares, or provoked by trivial infirmities, in pity heal our hurt and cleanse our sin. Clothe us in purity and pity, O God, that the holiest love in our life may teach us the highest truth of our faith; in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Little God

In the name of a Little Child, make us the child we never yet have been, trustful and free.

O GOD, our Father, most high, most lowly, the Holy One of our vision and dream; with happy hearts we worship Thee, in whose presence the greatest are but babes. High as the stars are above the earth are Thy ways above our ways; yet didst Thou make Thyself as small as a little Child, lying down upon the doorstep of the world—a Babe to break our heart and mend it. By his grace make us the child we never yet have been, free, trustful, and joyous of heart.

As we bow at the Cradle of Jesus, let there be in us, O Lord, a new nativity of faith and hope and the charity that thinketh no evil and abideth forever. May his tenderness touch us to a new gentleness toward all our fellow men in whom, however dimly, Thou dwellest, and move us to a more liberal devising in behalf of those who know bitterness and want. Freely we have received Thy greatest Gift; freely

may we give ourselves and our best gifts.

Hasten the day, we pray Thee, when the spirit of love and gladness shall fill the earth with shapes of purity and beauty, as of old it made the sky melodious with prophecy. Help forward the time when there shall be no more war, no more misery in our streets, because the laws of love have been searched out. Make our hearts a Cradle of peace and good will toward men, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Good Part

To worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

ALMIGHTY Father, God of all grace, lift us out of a care-bound life into the liberty and joy of those whose only care is for the one thing needful, for the good part which the world can neither give nor take away; and so unite us with all those of every name who make Thy will their law and Thy love their song, that we may worship Thee in the unity of the spirit and the power of an endless life; through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Togetherness

"Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us?"

ALMIGHTY Father, we, who are members of different races and faiths, desire together to worship Thy holy name in fellowship with each other. Thou art our Father, and we are Thy children; show us that our hopes and fears and aspirations are one. Forgive, O God, the envies, suspicions and misunderstandings which have blinded our eyes and thrust us asunder. Purify our hearts, and teach us to walk together in the laws of Thy commandments and the ways of human friendship.

Help us, O God, to give honor where honor is due, regardless of race, color, or creed, following what our inmost heart tells us to be Thy will. Deepen our respect for unlikeness and our eagerness to understand one another, that, in a higher unity of the Spirit, we may transcend our differences. Gladly may we share Thy best gifts, working together to build Thy City upon earth, we ask in Thy holy name. Amen.

The Choir Invisible

Something within us sings; something deeper than our sin, deeper than our sorrow.

HUSH our hearts, O God, that we may hear within us Thine eternal song, and rise above the confusion and contradictions of life. Grant us release, if only for one dross-drained hour, from the woe that haunts us, that we may know the gospel of music and the truth it has to tell. Something within us sings, something deeper than our sin, deeper than our sorrow. We hear it when we are still; Thou hearest it all the time.

For the masters of melody, who have been the interpreters and deliverers of our spirits and the teachers of Thy truth, we praise Thee and give thanks. Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to us—winged spirits who listened to Thy voice, and told in song what they had learned in sorrow. Attune our faith to the truth that above all tumult, below it, through it, there is an eternal harmony yet to be revealed—when we have ears to hear it.

Lord, Thou hearest all these beating human hearts, and knowest the story of each one. Give us Thyself to walk with us in our journey, a Presence to break our loneliness, a Light to lead us in our homeward way; yea, a Song in the house of our pilgrimage. Draw us by all the instincts, memories and yearnings of our hearts into Thy clearer presence, and at last grant us to mingle our voices with those who sing the song of the redeemed. In His name, Amen.

Sonship

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God."

GOD the Eternal, in whose temple we bow, lifting up hands of prayer and praise; make us to know that we are Thy temple, God-illumined if sometimes devil-haunted; our hearts the sacred place of Thy indwelling, with vessels of Thy making among our poor furniture; within these wondering, wistful minds something of the transcendent and infinite; that, with awed and eager spirits, led by a light that flashes across the soul from within, we may worship Thee as Thy sons and the disciples of Christ. In His name, Amen.

Year's End

A new life of love for a new year of grace.

THINE, O Lord, are the times we measure off by days and years; for though the years pass, yet are we ever with Thee, embosomed in Thy beauty, love and power. The generations come and go, returning to dust, but Thy laws abide, and above and around us Thy love is not moved. O Lord, we would look back only to give thanks, and forward to take courage. Amid chance and change we have been attended by an ever-present Help, wiser than our own. Our hurts have been healed and our burdens borne, by a strength kinder than we know.

O God, live within us yet more vividly, that so we may attain by Thy blessed inworking. May the dawning year be new indeed, with new visions of truth, a new wonder of Thy love, and a new service to our fellow man. May our homes be better ordered, our work better done, and our faith more firmly fixed in Thee; that life may show us its worth and wonder, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a short New Year, because sorrow makes the feet of time so slow.

THOU Ancient of Days, with whom there is no past and no future, we whose times are in Thy hand lift us our hearts, giving thanks for Thy eternal goodness. Naked are our souls before Thee, O Lord; clothe us with the beauty of holiness and the garment of praise. Make us to know that Spirit with spirit may meet in the fellowship of prayer. Draw us near to Thyself and then we shall not be far from one another, offering our prayer with one heart and one mind, with simple faith and sincere love.

At the end of a year that has been full of dark mysteries that baffle our faith, we come to Thee for cleansing and comfort, for help and healing. For many things we give thanks; for many things—oh, so many—we ask forgiveness; and for the sorrows that break our hearts we beseech Thee for courage and patience to wait for Thy further revelation. Lord, we have

gone astray; bring us back by the severity of Thy love, and grant us that purity of spirit that is more than wisdom.

Help us, our Father, to make the New Year a Christian year, rich in realizations of the truth as it is in Jesus; new indeed in its growth in the life of vision and service. Amid the changing and flowing of days may we look up to the Eternal, and find that peace which the world can neither give nor take away. Grant us a short New Year, if so it may be, because sorrow makes the time so long and the feet of the days so slow. Whatever be Thy will, may we serve Thee faithfully till the shadows flee away and we awake in Thy likeness. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Timeless Life

Why the swift and awful gift of life, if it be not to know Thee and love Thee?

O GOD, Most Merciful, on a winter day we seek the springtime of Thy presence; in the midst of years that melt like snowflakes we would rest Thy everlastingness. As no winds make the flame of the sun to falter, and no storms disturb the stars, so steadfast, O God, is Thy truth, so unwavering is Thy love. Yea, Thou art the home of all human souls from one generation to another, here, hereafter and forever, and our lives are wintry and lonely without Thee.

Lord, we ask for the best things, well knowing that we ask for the hardest things, not because Thou art unwilling to give, but because we are unready to receive. Help us, by Thy creative grace, to prepare for what is already our own when we are worthy of it. Work in the darkness of our hearts, as the flame works to change fuel into warmth and light in our homes. For why have we this swift

and awful gift of life, if it be not to know Thee and love Thee!

Teach us, O Lord, to think Thy thoughts after Thee, finding in what Thou wouldst have us be a revelation of Thyself. Purify us of all unbelief, and renew in us a vision of the truth that redeems body, mind and soul. Make us helpers one of another in the highest life, comrades in faith, partners in joy, serving Thy holy will till the sun of life is set and days and years are done; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Liberty

"The truth shall make you free."

O GOD Eternal, grant us such a love of Thy truth that we may learn the truth of Thy love, and find the path beneath our feet rising to the light, until at last, by Thy good grace, we shall know the truth that sets us free; that we may grow younger as we grow older, gentler as we grow wiser, pure of heart, full of hope, unafraid of life, and undismayed by dark death and all that it may hide or hold within its heavy draperies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Ascending Effort

Let not our striving fail, to be that inwardly to which all things are pure.

ETERNAL God, Thine is the power and the glory; Thine is the beauty and splendor of the world. Yea, Thou art the one certainty amid all uncertainties, the one enduring reality in the midst of phantoms. At this altar of vision, so awful and so gracious, we lift our voices in praise and adoration, offering our prayer with glad and remembering hearts. Grant us the grace of worship in the hush of this hour.

Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may see Thee as a Light shining through all mystery, a Love glowing in all fellowships, a Worker toiling within us toward a higher good not yet attained. Teach our hearts that Thou art ready to give Thyself to us according to our need, and that in seeking we shall find. Lord, we would be that inwardly to which all things are pure; let not our strivings for it fail.

Save us from our sins, through

which we fall back to the lower life from which we have begun to ascend. Lead us in our halting and stumbling quest after good; lift us out of a fear that stands in weakness into a faith that walks in power. Open wide our hearts to receive the strength that hovers about us as we struggle, and the holy presence which waits at our doors, wishing to dwell with us.

Quicken our spirits, as Thou art reviving the earth, by the touch of Thy spirit, to a new power of faith and a new joy of life. If there be in us seeds of prayer unstirred as yet, breathe upon them that they may bud and bloom; if songs that are silent, waken them to sing, that all that is within us may praise Thee. In His name, Amen.

Revelation

"If ye do His will, ye shall know the truth."

GOD of Truth and Purity, who unveilest Thyself not in words but in deeds, and hast taught us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee; grant us Thy grace that we may be doers of Thy word, and not hearers only, translating faith into truth; and may Thy Spirit work in our hearts until all the clay and dross in us yields to its fire, and the fire is nothing but light; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who went about doing good. Amen.

Living Waters

O for a life deeper, richer, more satisfying than we ever yet have lived.

AGAIN, O Lord our God, out of busy days we gather at the deep well of life which Thou gavest to our fathers, seeking Thy blessing. May we meet here the gracious presence of Him who sat by the well in the olden time, who giveth living water, whereof if we drink we shall thirst for no other. Let His spirit be in our prayer, cleansing us of sin, healing us of worry; warning them that lay up riches but are poor toward Thee; giving hidden trust to the faint of heart, and rest to troubled minds.

God of Mercy, we pray for all tired souls for whom the road of life seems to wind uphill all the way; for all who mourn and are not blessed; for lonely souls, and those who look upon to-morrow with dread; for any who are held in the net of evil habit and want to be free; for such as are trying feebly to grasp a new hope. Lord, our need is great; forgive, succor, and relieve. To each one give what he

most needs, though we know not what it is, and our poor words stumble in the asking.

Grant us, our Father, a life deeper, holier, more revealing than we ever yet have lived; richer in mystery, clearer in meaning, nobler in service. Bid us obey the instinct within us which prophesies of Him who is our true life, whose Life of Love is a well of water springing up into Eternal Life. In His name, Amen.

Broken Echoes

Melt our hardness, surprise our aloofness, make us tender and responsive.

OUR Father-God, something deep and haunting in our hearts draws us to the altar of prayer, seeking in fellowship what none may find alone. Lift us out of any dull, cold, peevish or rebellious temper of mind, lest we be too gloomy for hope and too willful to learn. Melt our hardness, surprise our aloofness; open within us a fountain of joy and praise —make us eager, tender, responsive.

Lord, if we have attained to any bit of fine behavior, if we have been held by the clutch of duty in a hard place, or helped anyone along a rough road, we praise Thee and give thanks. If we have failed of what we knew was good and brave and kind, if we have turned aside from a hard task, or left anyone to fall under a load we might have lifted; forgive us, Lord, though we cannot forgive ourselves.

O God, our lives are low-vaulted and troubled, only broken echoes of

what they ought to be. Live in us more richly, we humbly pray; make our faith a uniting assent to Thy holy will. In love may our faith find fulfillment, making our prayer a revelation and our service a sacrament; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Divine Surprise

"Surely the Lord was in this place and I knew it not."

GOD of Compassion, if anyone has come to Thine altar troubled in spirit, depressed and apprehensive, expecting to go away as he came, with the same haunting heaviness of heart; if anyone is deeply wounded of soul, hardly daring to hope that anything can afford him the relief he seeks, so surprised by the ill that life can do that he is half afraid to pray; O God surprise him, we beseech Thee, by the graciousness of Thy help; and enable him to take from Thy bounty as ungrudgingly as Thou givest, that he may leave here his sorrow and take a song away; we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Brotherly Heart

Show us the loveliness which humanity hides from us because we do not love it enough.

GOD of Men and Nations, in the far depths of Thy Fatherhood all men were conceived in love and born to be brothers; we worship Thee as the sons of men and Thy children. Behold us gathered in the name of Him in whose brotherly heart Thou art clearly revealed: some praying in joy, some in sorrow, and some, it may be, in cold despair; but all praying, even if it be only in the wish that they could pray. Unite us with all who love Thee better than they know, who serve Thee in darkness, and even in their doubts will not give Thee up.

O God, we who have loved too few, and none aright, beseech Thee to teach us how to love one another, as Thou hast loved us. Show us the hungry hearts of men and women turned bitter by long waiting, and the loveliness which humanity hides from us because we do not love it enough.

To all weakness which men bear as a burden from the past, make us merciful; to all moral defeat make us forgiving, even as we have been forgiven. Help us to look upon the struggling and thwarted souls of men with insight and sympathy, seeing the unguessed goodness of those whom we misjudge, that we may be revealers of Thee to our fellows.

To Thy loving-kindness, O Lord, we bring our hearts to be taught, until our fitful love meets and mingles with Thy unfailing love; yea, until the grace and charity of brotherly love dwell in us, casting out all envy, all harshness, all uncleanness. Melt our hardness, O Lord, and lift our lives into Thy fellowship that an Eternal Love may live in us; through Jesus Christ, our Lover and Lord. Amen.

Epiphany

"For we have seen His star in the East."

O DIVINE Tenderness, low lying in a Manger, with grave kings and hoary seers from afar we, too, would come, star-led, to the Manifestation of Love. Wherefore should we marvel to behold faces we have never seen, and hear tongues spoken we have never understood? Are not pilgrim feet abroad to-day in every land, journeying where loads are heavy and roads are dark, in quest of a Truth to solve the riddle of life and a Love to heal its heartache?

O Love of God, behold us gathered at Thy cradle, Thou who wast an outcast at the threshold of the inhospitable Inn that still and yet again has no room for Thee. By Thy blessed power make Thy Love to shine in our lives, that wandering feet may stay and darkened eyes may see, and the wild heart of man be led into the way of peace. Still Thou waitest to reveal Thyself to the world; make us messengers of Thy beauty and pity. In His name, Amen.

The Great Adventure

For courage, not shelter; for purity, not repose; and the adventure of the ascending life.

ETERNAL Goodness, at noonday we lift up our voices in the sacrifice of praise, and at eventide we will direct our prayer unto Thee, opening our window toward Thy holy city. Age after age our humanity has sought Thee, using many rites, but in one need and hope; and we would worship in the vast communion of the seekers and finders of God. Admit us, O Lord, into the bright communion of the Spirit, and make ready our hearts for some new unveiling of Thy truth.

Thou art our Father, our ever-faithful Friend, whose love is the hidden motive of the world: may we be found of Thee, and in the quiet of this hour grasp Thy hand in confidence and joy. Teach us to trust Thee always, everywhere, unto the uttermost, in time of trial, in moments of weariness, in dingy hours when life seems drab and meaningless; and,

trusting, to rise above misgiving in the faith of our Savior and Brother, who walked before us in the human way and ascended in victory.

Lord, we ask for courage rather than for shelter, for purity rather than repose, for the adventure of the ascending life. Evoke in us a great faith and hope and love, that we may be ministers of Thy power to our fellows in their struggle for the good. Join us with those who live loyally and lovingly, seeking Thy truth, serving Thy will, dedicated to the ministry of goodness and the fellowship of the Eternal Life. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Magi

"Gold, frankincense and myrrh."

O HEART of God, humbly we bow at Thy lowly Manger, bringing the treasures of our hearts, seeking what others see not, hoping for things unborn, held in secret steadfastness by a light that journeys before; beseeching Thee for grace to keep the feast of life's Epiphany, finding its meaning in eyes that search our own and a hand outstretched in the dawn; that we may learn a holier wisdom than even the stars can teach, and worship Thee where the hearts of those that love are made glad. In His name, Amen.

The Presence

O Lord, how near Thou art to our hearts, and we have not known Thee.

O DIVINE Redeemer, who inhabitest eternity and dwellest with the gentle and pure of heart, make Thyself real to those who seek Thee to-day. In the busy world, and in our beating hearts, there is a dumb cry for Thee, and men wander to and fro listening for Thy footsteps. Lo, Thou art here, the inspiration of our faith and its justification; in the need that brings us together and in the fellowship that unites us in the sacrament of song and praise.

Lord, in every home Thou standest waiting to be welcomed, in every heart wanting to be known and trusted. Take all veils from our eyes that we may see that in every true deed Thy light shines, and in every moral choice Thou art revealed. Show us that in the common life Thou art near, in hearts that yearn, in minds that seek the truth, in love and duty reconciled. Teach us to know Thee in the reve-

lation without words that moves in daily things.

Enter in and possess our hearts, O Lord; make our inner life a sanctuary of Thy presence. Purify us of fear, of bitter memories of mistakes, of unworthy desires, till our hearts adore and wonder and rise to claim a power and joy we have not known. Heal our sorrows; grant us great solving words; make us to know that the opening of our hearts and Thy entering are one moment. Make us experts in the doing of good, as He was in whose name we pray. Amen.

Day unto Day

Give us each day our daily bread.

OUR Father, each day is a little life, each night a tiny death; help us to live with faith and hope and love. Lift our duty above drudgery; let not our strength fail, or the vision fade, in the heat and burden of the day. O God, make us patient and pitiful one with another in the fret and jar of life, remembering that each fights a hard fight and walks a lonely way.

Forgive us, O Lord, if we hurt our fellow souls; teach us a gentler tone, a sweeter charity of words, and a more healing touch. Sustain us, O God, when we must face sorrow; give us courage for the day and hope for the morrow. Day unto day may we lay hold of Thy hand and look up into Thy face, whatever befall, until our work is finished and the day is done. In His name, Amen.

A Mirror of the Soul

To read the meaning of our fleeting lives in the light of Thy Eternal Life.

ETERNAL God, together we bow in the hush and joy of Thy Presence, folk of many families united in our need and quest of Thy revealing grace. Together we confess our sins; together we lift up our hearts in the ancient adoring habit of our race. Thou art the meaning of our pathetic and inscrutable mortality; and we pray that our faith in Thee, from a dim and haunting dream, may rise as a radiant vision to light the way of duty, of service, and of hope. Make our worship a cleansing of heart and a consecration of purpose.

Lord, we asked to see Thy divinity, and Thou hast shown us Thy humanity; we sought Thy eternity, and Thou hast revealed Thyself in a life like our own. Teach us to read the meaning of our fleeting lives in the light of Thy eternal life, that, walking by faith, we may be partakers of Thy divinity, as Thou art a sharer of our humanity. Lift us out of ourselves

into the joy of communion; save us from the misery of a fetterless freedom, and make us fellow workers with Thy unfolding purpose of good will.

Thou Forgiver of sin, Healer of sorrow, Vanquisher of death, draw us to Thyself, who art our salvation and our all-conquering hope. Make us citizens of Thy kingdom, men of invincible good will, builders of a world where righteousness shall reign, and the law of love shall triumph over hate and strife. Make a new beginning in our hearts, and in the troubled heart of humanity; mingle the peoples of earth in an alchemy of friendship, and with the breath of Thy Spirit create in us a new mind. In His name, Amen.

A Winter Day

"Thou sendest snow like wool."

GOD of Beauty, we praise Thee for the sparkling wonder of a winter day, glorified by the white purity and gentle charity of the snow, all a-glitter in the sunlight. Little gray clouds, flame-embroidered, driven by the wind, dapple the day with sudden brightenings and sudden darkenings, like the flitting lights and shadows of mortal life. Yet, O God Eternal, as no winds make the sun to falter, even so steadfast is Thy truth, so constant is Thy love. Thy ineffable enchantment, O God, is upon us, filling our hearts with joy unutterable. In the bright unveiling of Thy glory, we worship Thy holy name in Adoration. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Lead us beyond the symbol, as we break the Loaf broken for us by a Broken Hand.

HOLY Father, Thy glory makes the earth a Temple and all life a Sacrament; in the House of Thy Presence we lift up our hearts in adoration. O Thou whose love is our life, reveal Thyself to us as we gather at the table of the Lord, to break the Loaf broken for us by a Broken Hand. Lead us beyond the symbol into the mystery of His grace and truth: may it be a festival of His living presence, as when He broke the bread in the gloaming of the day.

God of the living, we praise Thee for the company of those gone before, who by their love and loyalty have left us a legacy of faith and hope. We give Thee thanks for the fellowship of those who gather here, our comrades and fellow workers, with whom we share Thy mercy and adore Thy name. Make us members one of another; unite us in one heart with all who seek Thee, in one communion

with all who love Thee, in one steadfast purpose with all who serve Thy holy will in faithfulness and joy.

Bless the lonely of soul with Thy nearness, and the wounded of heart with Thy healing. Give to the hungry of spirit Thyself, his bread, even the hidden manna whereof if he eat he shall hunger no more. O Thou who hearest what our words cannot tell, lift our spirits to a loftier melody, that our song on earth may blend with the song of the redeemed. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Loaf and the Cup

"This do in remembrance of me."

O BREAD of Life, feed us; Wine of God, refresh us. Grant us, Merciful Lord, by the light of a purified spirit, to attain that which we celebrate in a holy rite. Fed by the Loaf of Fellowship, may we ever hunger after those things by which we truly live. Renewed by the Cup of Sacrifice, may we serve Thee faithfully by a life well pleasing in Thy sight.

O Lamb of God, help Thy servants who drink of the Cup of the New Covenant to become communicants with all who love Thee in sincerity. As we partake of Thy sacrament, may we do it as if from the hand of the Lord Jesus; and may the vision of Him grow and abide until we sit with Him, and with those we love, in the Kingdom of Heaven. In His name, Amen.

Seeking a Country

Give us to go singing through a land which Thou hast made very fair.

ETERNAL God, darkness and light art Thou, a heart of fire and a robe of shadow. Ever the fire burns; ever the shadow hovers on all the horizons of our thought. Yet is Thy darkness better than our light, and in the shadow of Thy presence there is peace. Yea, in the twilight Thou seemest to draw near, and when wonder subdues us Thou beginnest to be a voice of stillness in the soul. In the atmosphere and order of the house of prayer may we learn that humility that is wisdom, and a faith that looks beyond the shadows of time.

How sacred and wonderful a thing it is to worship Thee; to yield our minds to a Mind wiser than our own and be taught; to open our hearts to an awful purity and be cleansed. O Thou who never leavest us, wander from Thee as we may, bring us home from a far country to our better, truer selves. From our troubled, lower nature, to which we are prone to de-

cline, lift us to the heights whence cometh the strength of vision. Give us brave, calm, understanding hearts, while we thank Thee for divine memories, edifying fellowships, and deathless hopes.

Lord, we are pilgrims and strangers with Thee, seeking a country; give us to go singing through a land which Thou hast made very fair. In dark ways be our light, in dim paths be our guide; and if we must sometimes journey alone, may we walk without fear, knowing that we go not unattended. So shall our sorrow be healed, our joy refined, our duty made plain, and our flitting life established in Thy fellowship. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Words of Jesus

"The words I speak unto thee are not mine, but the Father's that sent me."

O GOD our Father, we thank Thee for the words of Jesus, so fragrant with beauty, so rich in cargoes of wonder. No other words stir us so deeply, like a voice half forgotten but dimly remembered. They answer a wistful cry of the soul; they quench an intolerable fear; they heal a hurt within us which, if left broken, turns life bitter. O God, Thou hast made us to need such words; their music mingles with the holiest memories of our hearts and the echoes of voices long fallen into silence.

Lord, to whom shall we go; Thou hast the words of Eternal Life. Give us purer eyes to read the little Book where the sweet Voice sounds and the Vision dwells, that, learning of Him, we may find peace of heart and power to do Thy will. Then shall we know the meaning of life, reading it in the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lack of Courage

Somehow we have not attained; we go so far, and falter and fail.

FATHER everlasting, Thy love groweth not old; from age to age Thy mercy abides. Thou art the sky above and the river bed below the flow of our mortal years. Purify our prayer, O Lord; take all stains from our hearts, all darkness from our minds. Grant us earnestly to seek the things that please Thee, to search them out diligently, to love them truly, to obey them faithfully.

Lord, Thou hast set in our hearts a dream of life without futility, of faith without fear, of freedom without folly. Yet, somehow, we have not attained; we go so far, and falter and fail. Lack of courage, lack of faith, lack of one last uttermost surrender, keeps us back. Arise Thou within us as strength and healing and victory, overcoming all confusion of purpose, all haunting failure, all self-love that keeps us from the best life to which Thou callest us.

Humbly we offer our prayer, ask-

ing nothing for ourselves that we do not ask for all who struggle and aspire. May our sorrows be teachers, our disappointments revelations, and our temptations helpers toward a higher life. Day by day may we grow in faith, in charity, and in that purity of heart by which Thou art seen as the One altogether lovely; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Patience

"By the power that worketh in us to will and to do."

ALMIGHTY God, under whose brooding patience we live, never forgotten by One whom we forget; we praise Thee for Thy unwearied waiting for the advent of Thy sons; humbly beseeching that Thou wilt help us to be patient with ourselves and with our fellow souls in the limitations of life, in pity forgiving, in honor preferring one another; that patience, having her perfect work, may fulfill Thy holy will in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With One Accord

For all whom our hearts remember, each praying for all and all for each one.

O ETERNAL Love, who hast set us in the heart of Thy eternity, teach us a completer trust in Thee. Unite us with all who serve Thee, and may our fellowship be as a shield against bitter winds and a song in the night. Inspire us with a passion to know Christ, to be united with Him in faith, in purpose, and in obedience. Make us real as He is real, rich in courage and in tenderness, that Thy truth may be in our minds and Thy love in our hearts.

Hear our prayer for one another, and for all whom our hearts remember, each praying for all and all for each one. Minister to the sorrowing, the depressed, the discouraged, the lonely, and those for whom life seems to wind up the hill all the way. Have mercy upon any who have followed vain hopes and false values, and feel that life has turned to ashes in their hands. Lead us out of our self-

despisings into the liberty of Thy redemptive service.

Wherein we have sinned, do Thou and Thine forgive; and wherein, by word or act, we have hurt anyone without knowing it, overcome our evil by Thy good. Strengthen us in our fight with temptation, and make us to know that we are not alone. Let us not lose hope even if we are standing amid the ruin of our happiness, but rise and build again, taking example of Him who went about doing good, in whose service there is joy. In His name, Amen.

Awakening

"Revive Thy work in the midst of the years."

ALMIGHTY God, our Father, grant, we beseech Thee, a great outpouring of Thy Holy Spirit upon Thy people, so as to cause a deep and widespread revival of a living faith in Christ, working by love, and bringing forth the fruits of the Spirit, love of humanity, joy in sacrifice, and fraternity in righteousness; and this we ask in the name of the Redeemer, who ever liveth to make intercession for us, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gift of a Day

May morning and evening find us ready to do Thy will, whatever our lot may be.

THOU Ever-living God, who appointest to all their tasks and measurest the days of each life, teach us anew that Thou art our refuge and redemption. O Divine Love, which suffered and gave, make us pure of heart—by fire, if need be, only make us pure—that we may see the beauty of Thy holiness and seek Thee with eager, earnest hearts. Forgive our sins, heal our hurts, kindle our coldness of faith, and by Thy grace renew the broken obedience which we bring to Thee.

Lead our wayward feet in the way of Him who lived Thy human life on earth, that we may know the wonder and prophecy of these our mortal days and years. Help us in these strange and hurrying days to accept the gift that is freely offered of a grace that redeems us from weakness and weariness, from impatience and fear. Speak to our hearts; set our discords to music, and in our lonely inner life

make us to know an eternal fellowship.

O Thou whose love never grows weary, give us hearts to love Thee, our Father, and may morning and evening find us ready to do Thy holy will. Teach us how to take the gift of a day and make of it the beautiful thing Thou hast dreamed, free, trustful, joyous, radiant in faith and rich in service. Thou Friend of our hearts, Thou Life of our life, lead us out of shadow into light; lift us out of death into Life Eternal. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Inward Sustaining

For patience to wait in faith for the return of the light, and the dawn of joy.

HEAVENLY Father, not in dull use and wont do we bow together, but as those who would dedicate themselves anew to Thee in the spirit and faith of Jesus. Show us, while we unite our hearts, what we most need, and put into our minds the thoughts and desires which Thou dost ever delight to satisfy. May we be led by the Spirit into the light of the things that abide, and know their stillness and power.

Lord of our hearts, for many things we bless Thee—for life and love and their deep revealings—but most of all for the gate of prayer opening into fountains that quench immortal thirst. If any of us have special burdens, arising from hard lot or declining health, or any of the many ills that make life difficult, may we learn through prayer a prophetic patience which waits in faith for the return of the light, and the dawn of joy.

Hitherto Thou hast sustained us;

uphold us still, O Lord, and make us masters of trouble and temptation. For the sad of heart may sorrow be lifted at the bidding of Thy mercy; for the penitent may the clouds part in hope. Forgive us that we so often seek a transient good when the Eternal Good is so near us. May the spirit of Jesus be the breath of our souls, we humbly pray, in His name. Amen.

Lincoln Day

"With malice toward none, with charity for all; as God gives us to see the right."

LORD of Hosts, remembering how Thou didst lead our fathers through a Red Sea of war out of the house of bondage; we praise Thy holy name. Only by the shedding of blood may sin be cleansed; and Thou didst heal us of our sin, bind up the wounds of the nation, and make it whole. How terrible are Thy ways, and yet how wise; making men to know that only as nations are built in liberty and justice can they endure in a world where Thou reignest.

God of our fathers, make their sons worthy of so glorious a heritage of suffering and the strength of chastening trial; appoint us anew for the protection of the weak and the leadership of right. Let us not forget our past; teach us that Thou hast no fellowship with iniquity, but wilt visit with ruin a people who forget Thy law. Help us, O God, to close the widening chasm between the strong

and the weak, casting into it our pride and prejudice, making it a highway where Thy people may walk together in liberty and virtue.

Establish Thou our nation, O Lord; that the men of other days may see the work of their hands made strong, and Thy will fulfilled. Let it be so, we humbly pray, in the name of Him who cleanseth human hearts and giveth integrity to states, whose spirit is the hope of our nation and the solace of each lonely soul; even Jesus Christ, our Leader and Lord. Amen.

Dedication

"That this nation might live."

ETERNAL Father, who broughtest our fathers from afar into this goodly land, and leddest them in the building of a nation conceived in sacrifice and dedicated to Thy service, in which all men have an equal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; so teach us to unite duties and rights, and faith with freedom, walking before Thee in the ways of Thy laws and the works of Thy commandments, that we may have life more abundant, liberty more responsible, and happiness more abiding; to the honor of Thy holy name. Amen.

Patriotism

A nation called of Thee for a vast and holy errand.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of humanity, we thank Thee for the heritage and privilege of our beloved Country, and for the wisdom with which Thou hast led it from its perilous beginnings through all difficulties and dangers to this day of grace; reverently we take it to our hearts as we lift our prayer to Thee, beseeching Thee with passionate tenderness that Thy people may be delivered from every evil, turned from every error, and kept in the highway of a divine vocation; that Thy will may be done in fraternal righteousness, and Thy purpose fulfilled in the amplitude, power and prophecy of a nation called of Thee for a vast and holy errand in the world; in Thy holy name. Amen.

The Eternal Order

With simple trust and humble awe, seeking in Thee our highest life and our deepest joy.

ETERNAL God, whose life is endless, and who givest the grace Thou never needest, we worship Thee in wonder and awe, humbled by Thy mystery. Thou, O God, art the reality behind and within all things, even in the depths of our souls; because of whom our lowest moods are troubled by strange stirrings of spirit, upward leaping thoughts and visitings of beauty. Thou hast made us citizens of an Eternal Order whose light, falling over us betimes, gives meaning to our days and years.

Because our discontent with the actual and our aspiration after the ideal are of Thee, O Lord, we utter these at Thy feet; because our duties and labors are of Thine appointing, we ask Thy guidance in their doing. Our sins, too, we confess to Thine everlasting mercy, by whose gentleness all that is best in our broken lives is rescued from ruin and decay. The

joys of life we count before Thee, and its dark woes also, knowing that through them Thou hast wrought a work in us we would never have sought, and therefore would have lost.

Hallow Thy name in our hearts, O God; make us divinely high-minded because we are truly humble. With simple trust and yearning love we offer our prayer, seeking in Thee our highest life and our deepest joy. Give us good morrow, if so it may be; open a new vista into the Eternal Life. After the shadow of death, which so troubles our hearts, may we awake in Thy likeness, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Gate of Prayer

Lead us into a wide and quiet place of vision, and renew our faith.

O THOU Eternal Presence, in whose mystery we live, subdue our minds and soften our hearts as we bow together in the fellowship of prayer. Create in us that purity of heart that discerns Thy truth and Thy will, and that love which admits us into communion with Thee and harmony with one another. Help us to realize that beyond the near things that distract lie the eternal things that endure, and by that vision may we be renewed and uplifted. Grant us Thy revealing grace that we may be crowned with strength to serve Thee and Thy cause of good will in the world.

Make Thyself known to us, O Lord, as we turn aside from the din and hurry of life to rest in the sense of Thine unhasting and unresting goodness. Vouchsafe a moment of that divine leisure that enables the most hurried of souls to hear the higher notes of the spirit, and feel the com-

munion of the eternal life in the midst of the distractions of time. Lead us through the gates of prayer into a large and quiet place of vision, that we may renew our faith, quicken our insight, and regain power and poise of spirit.

Thou knowest how sadly we fail in our struggle for the good, how our faith grows weak and evil desires grow strong. Without Thee we are helpless to attain or to atone; Lord, forgive and save. Teach us Thy truth that sets us free from the slavery of the sense, from the torment of misgiving and the horror of unreality. Redeem us from blind thoughts we know not nor can name, and help us to walk in the light where all is clear through an unwavering trust in Thee. Restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation in the service of Thy good will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Chapel

"Pray to thy Father in secret."

O GOD, wherever we go, through Thy incommunicable mercy we may any moment enter the Holy Church Invisible, and find joy. Are we lonely? Does the day run heavily? Are we tempted by evil or tormented by dismay? Have we lost loved ones? Show us, Thou nearest of Friends, a door opening inward into freedom and fellowship. O God, make each of our hearts a little chapel in Thy Eternal Church, where the mysteries of redemption are celebrated. There may the Supper of the Lord be kept; there may He be enjoyed and served. O let it be so, we humbly pray, in His holy name. Amen.

The Common Salvation

"He who seeks his own loses the things that are common."

O GOD, our Father and our Savior, we thank Thee for the hunger of heart which draws us here and unites us in the dear togetherness of prayer, wooing us from our loneliness into the blessed fellowship of worship; from our solitary sorrow into the Divine sympathy. Touched by Thy Holy Spirit, may none ask in prayer that which others may not share, that each may partake of the faith of all, and all together may be led into a like precious faith and joy.

Thou art our Father-God, whose goodness shelters all, whose wisdom rules all, whose love never fails, never forgets, never tires. For the revelation of Thyself in the mighty order of the world, in the awful courses of history, in the Book of Vision, and most vividly and tenderly in Jesus, we praise Thee and give thanks. Show us the things we have in common, the riches of truth and beauty which belong to all, the treasures of

grace and redemption which all may share.

Heart-filled with thankfulness for our common salvation by Thy grace, may we be faithful in the practice of it, humble of heart, joyous in service, touching the lives of our fellows with light and power and loveliness. So may we work out our redemption in the light of Thy face, because Thou workest in us to will and to do, fulfilling Thy purpose in our lives. Together may we grow into the measure of the stature of Him who is the Savior of all and the Friend of each one. In His name, Amen.

The Eternal Need

Drawn together by deep yearning, our natures are diverse but our need is one.

FATHER-GOD, who art above all yet in all, ineffably holy yet the friend of sinners, we seek Thy grace in the fellowship of prayer. Like a tower of refuge to a soul pursued, like the voice of a friend in a strange land, like the sight of home to a wanderer, is our trust in Thee. To serve Thee is liberty; to love Thee is to be made clean of sin, forgiven and free; to know Thee is to discover the worth and meaning and prophecy of life.

Behold us, Lord, drawn together by a deep yearning; our natures are diverse, but our need is one. So teach us to pray that Thy presence may grow real, banishing our loneliness, and urging us beyond ourselves to the more and better that we should be. O Thou in whom we live, whom for the holding of our eyes we do not see, make Thyself as clear as Thou art near, that we may serve Thee in the Eternal Communion in these our mortal years.

Thou Holy Spirit, whose presence makes the earth a temple and all life a sacrament, if any have sought Thee without finding, show them that they would not seek Thee if Thou hadst not already found them. Trouble us still, until we find ourselves in Thee, and know who it is that is tugging at our hearts. Make us partakers of the sacrament of Thy salvation, that we may live by the power of an endless life, in purity, joy, and hope. In His name, Amen.

Everysoul

"In Him we live and move and have our being."

O GOD, Thou Guide and Goal of the soul; something of Thee is in all songs of love, all brooding beauty, all thoughts and things that bless. When we look at the loveliness of the world, we face Thee; when we clasp the hand of friendship, we touch Thee. No little child comes running to us without bringing us something of Thy love, nor tiny lowly flower blooms that does not reveal Thee. When we love we know Thee, and in every true deed the light of Thy face shines.

Lord, we wait, listening for Thy footsteps; we want that a voice other than human should speak to our hearts. Give us ears to hear the music that moves in daily things, heard of those that listen. Show us that our longings are Thy wooings, and that a Spirit beyond our spirit dwells with us and within us, when we yield to its gentle power. May a sense of Thy living nearness gather and grow in our hearts, transfiguring our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Goodly Company

May our worship be a holy communion of mortals in the immortal life.

ETERNAL Father, in Thy fellowship there is health and holiness and happiness; by Thy love we have life and in Thy grace is our salvation; we worship Thy holy name. Let the deepest yearnings of our being be ennobled by the power of faith and exalted by the sanctity of reason into the majesty of prayer. Lift us from our narrow, lonely lives into Thy large, abundant life; and by Thy mercy make our worship a holy communion of mortals in the immortal life.

Spirit of God, in the midst of hurrying days and the ever-shifting human scene, teach us how to live in the sanctuary of the Eternal. Kindle in us a flame of pure devotion, to consume all grosser passions; a light to shine upon our path, leading us in the way of the blessed life. When the blows of life strike us, leaving a hurt in our hearts, be Thou our help and healing. Let not the mists of mortality hide from us that dear City of God where all souls shall assemble.

Fill our minds with wisdom, our hearts with tenderness, and our hands with usefulness. Take all reluctance out of our obedience, all bitterness out of our endurance, and let Thy laws become songs in the house of our pilgrimage. Unite us with all lovers of goodness, and give us courage to follow the ways of Thy spirit. To Thy loving-kindness, O God, we offer our prayer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Spirit of Lent

Rebuke our ease; purify our hearts; create in us a diviner life than we ever yet have lived.

O GOD, let there be no rest in us until Thou hast found rest in gaining us to be wholly Thine own. May we bear our cross whilst Thou art crucified for us, as Thou art and must till the evil in us is purged away. Because Thou carest for us Thou must discipline us to our wounding and perplexity, the better to fulfill Thy will in us. Rebuke our ease, and create in us a diviner life than we ever yet have lived, we humbly pray.

Show us, O Lord, how far we are from goodness, how many sins mar our lives; grant us the courage to face our own hearts in the light of Thy law. Yet save us, O God, from the despair of self-contempt, and set us aspiring anew to be more and better than we are. Grant us each day, with our daily bread, power to become Thy sons; power to win victory over whatsoever weakens or defiles; power to rise above the flesh and live in the

spirit. Lord, we ask not to be better than others, but to be better than ourselves.

Pity, O Lord, the aimless, the frivolous, the self-centered who seek only to amuse and gratify their own wayward desires. Begin in them, and in us, a higher, purer life; show us a more excellent way. Let Thine everlasting arms be round us until the stain of sin is taken away; yea, until the note of sadness which haunts our prayer is turned into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One Thing Needful

That the quality of His life may be more clearly revealed in us, crowning our days.

O GOD, Thou art the meaning of life and its mystery; Thy love turnest the shadow of death into a song of victory; we bless and praise Thy holy name. To our weakness Thou art strength, to our darkness Thou art light; we would worship Thee with the love of our hearts and the service of our lives. When Thou art near all life is luminous; when Thou art far away its music falls to a lower octave.

Be Thou, O Lord, our Sabbath rest and renewal, as Thou art our help and hope in the labor of our days, touching all that we think or do with beauty and joy. From this day forth we would invest our time, devote our thought, and bestow our love upon Him who has given His all to us, praying that the quality of His life may be more clearly revealed in us, crowning our days with wonder and prophecy. Let it be so, our Father, and we can ask no more.

To Thy loving-kindness we bring all the nameless needs of our hearts, seeking the one thing needful which Thou alone canst give, even Thyself, our joy and consolation. May our days mark our growth in noble ways of thinking and living, in the service of the truth as it is in Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Light and Shadow

Days when the sky is clear; days when the heavens are gray, shrouded in mist.

THOU, O God, art our Father, and our hearts cry out for Thy living presence: be to us the light that reveals and the grace that renews. How lovely are the hours of Thy revealing, when the sky is clear and the sunlight lies radiant upon the hills, and the birds sing in our hearts! But for those hours how could we live through the long, slow days when the heavens are gray, and the hills whence cometh our strength are shrouded in mist?

Lord, sanctify to us alike the light and shadow of life, alike its fruitions and failures, and may it bring us nothing of joy or woe that shall not be a ministry of grace to our spirits. Unless Thou keep us, O Lord, our life will lose its secret of power and its soul of hope: hide us in the sanctuary of Thy love. Visit in Thy mercy all who are in dire plight of faith by reason of bitter sorrow, all for whom the sun is veiled by the pale cast of fear and foreboding.

Minister to us, our Father; help us to know Thee, not as in the word of a prophet, but by what we are and have within us of Thine eternal life. Teach us to love Thee with the love of Jesus, in whom Thou hast revealed Thyself as in no other, our Friend, our Brother, and our Savior; in whose name we offer our prayer. Amen.

The Depth of Love

No hell of sin or despair too deep for the love of God to reach and redeem.

THOU, O Lord, art our unfailing friend, our ever-present help, and our everlasting hope. Without Thee life is winter, lonely and bleak; when Thou art near it is summer, and the birds sing in our hearts. Together we seek Thee, as flowers seek the sun, drawn equally by the wonder of Thy grace and the weariness of our need. Not for things do we pray, but for a more vivid sense of Thyself, in whom our little lives find liberty, power, and a joy which the world cannot bestow.

Teach us that we are not many but one, united with Thee and with one another in one nature, one duty, one destiny. Show us that Thou art in the brightest heaven and in the darkest hell, and that when Love descends into Hell in order to share the sufferings of its imprisoned souls, or to set them free, it becomes heaven. Open our eyes that we may see the ladder of Thy love reaching from the depths to

the heights, and Thy angels ascending and descending upon it.

Many are our needs, O Lord, but Thy mercies outnumber our necessities; and as Thou art loyal to us, following all our days with Thy loving-kindness, help us to be faithful to Thee. Make us messengers of Thy mercy, ministers of Thy truth, doers of good to our fellow souls in their struggle and sorrow. May this house of prayer be the gate of heaven to any who have fallen into a deep hell of sin, or despair, or bitterness of heart. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Mount of Vision

"In my Father's house are many mansions."

ALMIGHTY Father, by whose grace we have life and in whose light we see light; mercifully grant that this hour of prayer may be a mount of vision, from which new light shall fall upon our fleeting days; that we may think of our lives as sent from Thee, on Thy errand and for services Thou hast appointed; and that Thou waitest to receive us at the end of our pilgrimage, into a House not made with hands, eternal in the heavens; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Winds of God

"Behold, I make all things new."

GOD of Many Names, the Changeless amid the ever-changing, be Thou with us in a new and strange time, when old tracks vanish and waters are in flood. It is an hour of over-turning; old things are passing away and many cry, Who shall show us any good? Through the anguish of birth a new day is dawning, and forces from far and near mingle in the noise of strife. Thou, O God, art in the storm and above it, shall we not trust Thee, listening for Thy voice of stillness in the rush of events and the tumult of the nations? Thou exultest in Thy glory, shall we not hail Thy coming in new visions of the truth, and in new fellowships of men uniting the ends of the earth? Thy winds are blowing, Oh, lead us by Thy spirit into a new order of the ages! Hush our hearts, O God, that we may hear Thy heartbeat through the world; rebuke our faithless fears. Open our lips that we may shout for joy as Thy sons, with new tongues declaring Thy wonderful works; for to Thy glory all things move. Amen.

Believing Unbelief

Without Thee life is too much for us,
heavy with care and dark with mystery.

LORD, we believe, help Thou our unbelief; that we may learn amid the hard facts of life to know Thee and trust Thee through that which we have within us of the true and everlasting. Let us not forget Thee in the confusion of things, but, remembering Thee, order and rule our days by the light in which we see light. Though creeds fall to pieces and pass away, may faith abide in us and grow, taking the tragedy of life and turning it into triumph. Make us victors over dark moods, over faithless fears, by the faith that makes men faithful.

Forgive our sins, and let us not slip back into the poorer, lower life from which we have begun slowly to ascend. Help us to walk with Thee, to stand and fight on Thy side, and when the day is dark teach us to find strength and joy in the hidden might of Thy truth. Let us not rest in the outward shadow and symbol of things, but

reach down to the reality, and make our home in that which no vicissitude can alter or obscure. By Thy grace keep us in dutiful loyalty to hard tasks, in wise hope, in patient love, in fruitful service.

Without Thee, our Father, life is too much for us, heavy with care and dark with mystery. Give us hearts to trust Thee against the witness of the senses, against the shadow of sin, against the veto of the grave; hearts to do and dare, to strive and pursue, because Thou art and the world is Thine. Make this moment a trysting time, that our hearts may know such strength and quietness, such purity and joy, that we may go forth renewed and exalted, toiling in the service of Thy will as He did in whose name we pray. Amen

God Our Life

The blessing of those who are poor in spirit because they have seen something very rich.

O GOD most Holy, by the breath of Thy spirit we live moment by moment; Thine is the strength which supports us, whether we do good or ill. Thou, O Lord, art the beauty which enchants us, the truth for which our minds seek, and the love that redeems us from that lower, shadow self which would make us content with something less than the best. Because Thou art our life, teach us to live in Thee always, everywhere, doing everything as for Thy will.

Live Thou within us triumphantly, creatively; purify us of all that is untrue, unclean, and unworthy of Thy fellowship. Help us to attain to that discipline of the body by the spirit which shall make us fit instruments for the expression of Thy truth and the service of Thy will. Grant us the blessing of those who are poor in spirit because they have seen something very rich, and who hunger and thirst after inward righteousness.

O Thou who hast made us for Thyself, let there be no satisfaction for us until we are more and better than we are. Take our groping, faltering spirits and make them centers of Thy light and power and loveliness. Lift our lives out of shadows into realities, that the power of spirit may be revealed in us. May we be of those who watch and work for the coming of Thy kingdom; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Self-Escape

"Not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

OUR Father, we pray Thee to draw us near to one another, as we seek in our prayer to draw near to Thee in our need. To Thy mercy we bring those who are so oppressed by a sense of the futility of life that they hardly dare to look forward, lest they be unable to go on. Give them release from self-questioning, and rest from inner discord and anxiety. Here are folk who have sought to be generous and high-minded, and have been betrayed, and are finding it hard to keep faith in their fellow men; save them, O Lord, from bitterness. Let not those who have suffered woe think they are different from others, and alone in their sorrow. Grant all of us escape from self; lift us above what is merely self-centered in our prayer to Thee, and in our thought about life. Give us the wisdom and the will to lift the load from weary hearts about us, lessening the burden they bear.

Help us, O God, to lose sight of self in the service of others, and find peace of soul; in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Purity of Heart

For cleansing, in the bright fountain of Thy purity, from sins that stain and distort.

O FRIEND Eternal, without a sense of Thy nearness a great desolation comes over our hearts, as if we were lonely exiles in an eternity of time and space. Help us to know Thee, not only in the broadening purposes of history, but also, and much more, in this mystic hour of communion; not only in the vast and awful forces of the world, but in our little lives, at work in our common days. Let it be so, that a knowledge of who and what Thou art may bring freedom, forgiveness, and a high and fearless faith.

Unless we know Thee in our hearts the sacred page of the past, and the slowly traced Bible of to-day, are alike closed to us, alike hidden and untranslated. Not for forgiveness only, but for cleansing, do we pray—cleansing from the pettiness of our lives, the lust of our vanity, and the sins that stain and distort our souls. Cleanse us, O Lord, of the things for which

we can never forgive ourselves; those pages of our life turned by a chance wind of memory, uncovering some old, cruel, careless hour.

O Purity of God, we would be pure in heart, that Thy word may prosper whereunto Thou hast sent it, even the redemption of our souls. Have mercy upon each of us, whatever may be our lot, our difficulties, our temptations, and help us to overcome the hindrances that come in our way when we seek to live holy and righteous lives. Make us wise to put away all that holds us back from full surrender to Thy will and Thy love. All that we can offer Thee is already Thine own; satisfy us with Thy mercy, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Searcher of Hearts

Light the flame upon our altar; waken a song in our hearts.

O GOD, the Eternal, whose grace is the breath of our life, humbly we would worship as those who seek to make their wills one with Thine. Receive us in our need; light the flame upon our altar; waken a song of joy in our hearts. Nearer than we have ever known, enter into our hearts; clearer than we have ever seen, let Thy truth shine in our minds. Make this an hour of holy and high communion in the fellowship of the eternal life.

From Thy great heart of goodness each human heart draws its wishes, its prayers, its love of truth, its longing for beauty, its hunger and thirst after righteousness. Show us, Lord, that Thou wilt do in Thine own time, if we obey Thee, all that we have felt and hoped and prayed when we are nearest to Thee. Yea, and more than we can ask or think or dream, by Thy power working in us both to will and

to do. Oh, fashion us in the likeness of the Beauty we have seen.

Searcher of hearts, let not our failure of faith or lack of love make the winter of our Lord. Give us faith in men, faith in what lies at their core, beneath all superficial evil; the faith that they will answer us with their best if we welcome them to the best that it is in us to be. Grant us, Lord, by the practice of the brotherly life, a more vivid sense of our Father and our Friend. In the name of Jesus Christ our Brother and our Lord. Amen.

A Cup of Trembling

Dwellers in an Inn of Wistful Thoughts; deliver us from weariness and haunting fear.

THOU knowest, O Lord, how strangely faith and fear mingle in our hearts, how we needs must fight for our highest hope, and how, sometimes, our prayer is as a cup of trembling. Doubts assail us in hours of weakness, feelings of futility torment us in moods of weariness, and we are left to be dwellers in an Inn of Wistful Thoughts. Let our worship together be a renewal of spirit and a lifting of mists, unveiling the eternal realities so near yet so often unseen.

At Thine altar, O Lord, are folk harassed by care, pursued by fear, beshadowed by sorrow, tired, it may be, before the work of the day begins. They know there is something wrong in this life of worry and fret and strain, but they know not how to escape it. Hear our prayer as we breathe into Thine ear what no mortal ear may hear, some in dire perplexity, some in desperate crisis, some in dis-

mal grief. Hear, O Lord, and speak to each heart a revealing word of comfort.

O Thou who art our peace, make an entrance into our hearts, and deliver us from weariness and haunting fear. Lord, we seek Thy face; grant us cleansing and courage and confidence. Show us that we are bound to Thee with a bond that cannot be broken, and our twilight and trembling will be forgotten. In His name, Amen.

The Hard Place

Though our bed be a stone, and no ladder lift our dream, yet will we seek Thee.

O LORD our God, with eager hearts we seek Thee, the only satisfying and abiding good amid the shadows of perishing things. When we remember our thoughtless lives, our low desires, and our wayward wills, we know why we have not found Thee. Forgive the blindness of our hearts; and in Thy mercy lead us out of our wanderings into the light of Thy face. Though our bed be a stone, and no ladder lift our dream, yet will we seek Thee, O God, who art the source of our life and the secret of our joy.

Receive, O Lord, our thanksgiving for the lessons learned in the hard places of life. Thou hast made us to know sorrow, failure, loss, and pain; grant us also to know the spiritual grace which they beget in us when we accept them as from Thee, and bear them aright. Forbid that we should envy the lot of another, which we do not know, but be content with the

way Thou art leading us, knowing that it leads to Thee. May what we have been taught by difficulty make us willing to obey Thy will, and walk in Thy way.

Better, O Lord, a life of pain, struggle and striving, with Thee, than a soft, loose and smooth life without Thee. May this hour be to each of us a vision of God, when our sin is forgiven and our sorrow is sanctified. O God, grant us only Thyself, and we can ask no other blessing; and this we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Grace of God

"My grace is sufficient for Thee."

THOU Everlasting Mercy, Fountain of all Blessing, we bring to Thee the pathos of our human need; the old who see the end of life, the young who know not its trials, those in mid-years who feel its burden and care; the lonely, the heavy-laden, and those bowed down with sorrow; the tempted and fallen; the baffled and defeated; the prisoner in his cell; those bereft of the kindly light of reason; for all who need Thee, as we need Thee, we lift our hearts in prayer, asking Thy plenteous grace; beseeching Thee to gather us under the shadow of Thy wing, that the dim, aspiring good in us may become real and clear, revealing the purpose of our struggle and the prophecy of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Social Justice

"Let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."

O GOD, together we confess our personal and social sin, beseeching Thee to forgive our blindness, our indifference, and our hardness of heart. Show us that we are members one of another, and that the hurt of one, even the humblest, is an injury to all and a sin against Thee. Deliver us from every form of the spirit of oppression, and the callous greed which seeks comfort, or ease, or gain at the cost of the misery of others. Create in us a passion for justice, that freedom may be a blessing and liberty bear the fruit of righteousness and good will.

Smite us, O Lord, with the conviction of Thy Holy Spirit; subdue us to true repentance. Evoke in us a new spirit of generosity, and unite us in one purpose to understand and to act, making our faith fruitful in the service of our fellow man in his struggle for a freer, fuller life. Endue us with the spirit of Jesus who saw Thy

image in all who wear our human form; help us to toil with His patience and mercy, that we may do our part to heal the injustice of our time. Fill our minds with light, anoint our hearts with love.

Thou hast visited us with hopes that can be realized only as Thy will is done on earth as it is in heaven; may those hopes rule our lives. Fortify us by Thy spirit against discouragement when the good seems defeated, and let not an evil past have power to mar the future. Make us diligent in behalf of a just and merciful life, offering ourselves as instruments of Thy spirit in bringing order and beauty out of darkness. Forasmuch as the earthly is for the sake of the heavenly, bring us at last to the glory of Thy city. In His name, Amen.

Palm Sunday

Enter our cities, take captive our hearts; make the agony of man an anthem of praise.

RIDE on, Thou Mighty Lord of Love, Leader of all the powers of goodness against the brute forces of evil; Captain of an unarmed army of peace, marching amid the shout of peasant hosts and the songs of little children. Cæsar has fallen into dust and his glittering armor rusts; but Thou, O Christ, makest Thy triumphal entry into every age, holding in Thy broken hand a Palm of Peace.

Ride on in majesty, O gentle Divine Invader; enter our cities, take captive our homes, and purify our hard hearts; cleanse Thy temple of all ugliness and unreality; drive out those who traffic in human souls. Reign Thou, O Merciful Master, till all injustice, all uncleanness, all unkindness is defeated; until every evil that defiles the life of man is dethroned and destroyed.

Ride on, Thou invincible and inevitable Christ, ever-living and all-lov-

ing, Revealer of Life and Conqueror of Death; take command of Thy world to the confounding of all tyrannies that oppress and all terrors that affright; order our life by Thy law of love; make ready the earth for the City of God; lift the agonies of man into an anthem of praise to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

Good Friday

Consider, O Lord, and bear us; slay in us that which slew Jesus on the Cross, even our sin.

GOD of the Cross, in what a dark world Thou hast set our lives, where sin and suffering reign and man is saved by the sacrifice of the best. Yet is the darkness of Thy mystery more revealing than the light of our knowledge; by it we are softened, subdued, and sanctified. In its darkness there is a deeper wisdom; out of its shadow grows our faith for to-day and our hope for the morrow. High truth is here, even the final truth of our life and Thine.

Consider, O Lord, and hear us; slay in us that which slew Jesus on the Cross, even the sin which our sin hides from us by its blindness. Forgive our impure love, our shameless selfishness, our cruel pride, whereby we crucify Him afresh; yea, our hate of those who need our love, and our love of that which Thou hast made us to hate. Let some leaf of the Bitter Tree fall upon our hearts, that

when we suffer for our sins, or are broken by the sins of others, we may suffer in the fellowship of Christ; not in bitterness, but in the beauty of a self-giving love.

Redeem us to Thyself, O God, by the grace of Him whose shame is our glory, whose sorrow is our joy, and whose bitter death is our brightest hope. O Mercy of God, hear our prayer, and return it to us in a quickening of soul to seek more earnestly the purity by which Thou art known, until Thy love is perfected in us; through Jesus, our Lord, who gave Himself for us on the Cross. Amen.

The Cross

Something in His life and death lets a light into our darkness, a joy into our sorrow.

ETERNAL Father, in the Shadow of the Cross we worship and bow down, subdued by a mystery beyond our fathoming, and awed by a love greater than our hearts. When we think of Jesus we are melted by an unutterable tenderness; and the Shadow that waits for every man, from which none escapes, no longer darkens our faith and obscures our hope. Something in Him, something in His life and death, lets a light into our darkness and a joy into our sorrow.

Humbly we pray for the valor of true faith, and the power of a loving spirit, that we may be little brothers of the heroic, all-enduring Christ. If He accepted His cross as a sacrament at Thy hand, let us not think that we are in the grasp of a blind Fate that knows not nor cares, but read our sorrows as the will of One who is shaping us for a holier ministry. When

sorrow comes, may it teach us a truth deeper than joy can know, sanctifying us to Thee.

At the altar of prayer we yield our spirits to Thy spirit, to be touched to finer issues, to be taught of Thee in the truth as it is in Jesus, to be trained for Thy higher service. Make clean our hearts; unveil Thy love to us that in its clear shining we may see the meaning of life and serve Thee in faithfulness and joy. When we must pass, at last, from this shadow of life into the Shadow of Death, be Thou, O Lord, our light till the morning breaks. Amen.

The Savior

We looked for one who should sit upon a throne; but He died upon a Cross.

O GOD, Thy thoughts are not as our thoughts; as high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are Thy ways above our ways. Thou didst set in our midst One whom we knew not, confronting our lives with His life, confounding our vanity with His humility. Our pride would choose a face as radiant as the morning; but His face was marred! In our folly we looked for one who should sit upon a throne; but He died upon a Cross!

Truly, O God, it is not according to the wisdom of man that such a One should save us, who could not save Himself. Our dream was of a savior who had all power; and He was weak. Our vision was of a warrior-saint, girt with flaming swords, to put evil to flight; but He was defeated, helpless, without defense, so that one smote Him on the cheek, and seemed to suffer no harm. We thought He would

threaten us in Thy great name; but He spake in pity and tears.

Thus, O God, dost Thou reverse the order of our thinking and rebuke the folly of our wisdom. As we muse over the might of a power we call weakness, do Thou, O God, so deal with our foolish hearts that we shall begin to see Thy truth, and love Him anew who, in His trust in the power of love alone, forever withstands us for our redemption; even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Easter Octave

In Thee, O God, we live; death is but a cloud-shadow wandering across our human valley.

O GOD, our Father, Thou art the Immortal Life which Thou hast made us to desire and seek; bless us on this Day of Eternal Hope. Here, as subject to death, yet longing for life, Thou hast appointed that we pass our days; quicken our spirits by the power of an Endless Life, like the stir of spring in the earth. Our hearts are glad, yet pierced by tiny shafts of pain, remembering those who walk with us no more; lift us above the shadow of sense into the light of Thy presence, in whom there is no darkness.

Our Father, we praise Thee that Thou hast not kept the wonder of life everlasting hidden in Thyself, but hast given us hints, prophecies, and holy intimations. Which of our hearts hast Thou not sometimes touched, so that we made haste, and, running to Thee, have cast off doubts, and rejoiced. Yet such glimpses were

not enough, and Thou didst show us the Eternal Life in time, erect, unafraid, serene, that we, with unveiled faces, might behold its glory, walking our human way, radiant with joy, victor over death.

Lord, all the life we have makes appeal unto Thee for the life we need; make us, through Christ, citizens of eternity in the shadow of time. Make us to know that we live in Thee, to whom death is but a cloud-shadow wandering across our human valley, and that our own will return to us, glorified by Thy grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Easter Morn

Day breaks! Life is lord of death, and love every way is infinite!

O LORD and Giver of life, who art awakening the earth to the singing loveliness of springtime, awaken our spirits to the wonder and glory of this day. As Christ arose victorious over the shadow of the cross and the darkness of the tomb, so may we rise above the things of earth which pass away. Day breaks! Life is lord of death, and love every way in infinite!

Give us, Lord, such trust in Thy truth, such confidence in Thy love, and such joy in our living Lord, that we may find our real life in Thee, whose love knoweth no end. Attune our souls to songs of victory, at one in heart and voice with the great company who walked in Thy light and who stand before Thee in joy; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

The Day of Eternal Life

May joy overcome our wistful pathos, looking forward to the great reunion when the night is gone.

FATHER Eternal, Thou art the fountain of light and hope for our little day, and we look to Thee with exultant hearts, giving thanks. We praise Thee for the great homing instinct of the soul which seeks Thee, as sparks ascending seek the sun, and for that giving of Thyself which makes us, humble and fleeting as we are, partakers of Eternal Life. O God, we worship Thee in the glory of an ageless life, touched to wistfulness by the soft-spoken springtime.

Teach us, O Lord, to trust not the changing tides of Time but the majesty and mercy of the Eternal, of which we have prophecy in those hours of insight when life drops its veil and reveals its splendor. Hints and token of the Abundant Life Thou hast given us in the renewal of Nature, but most vividly in Christ our Lord, who, walking our human way and bearing our burden, triumphed

over death by the power of spirit, opening the gate of a new hope to man.

Before Thee, O Lord, is all our desire, and whatsoever our heart rightly willeth, it is of Thy gift: let not Thy gift be unfruitful within us. Perfect that Thou hast begun; give what Thou hast made us to long for, and transfigure our groping hope in the light of Thy creative love. May joy overcome our haunting pathos, looking forward to the great reunion when the night is gone; in His name. Amen.

Emmaus

O Wayfarer, keep tryst with our hearts; and at eventide let there be light.

O PILGRIM Presence on a twilight road, we walk where hearts are heavy and ways are dark. Join our journey, show Thyself to us in another form. Our deepest need is for some one to draw near and go with us; some one who knows the way when sunset paths fade into the night. Draw near and abide with us, O Friend, not only in the hour of worship, but when each one is alone. Draw near in the place of labor where tasks are hard, and in the awful stillness which death makes when it passes by, leaving us forlorn.

O Strange Wayfarer, if our eyes are holden and we do not know Thee, make our hearts burn within us along the way. Open unto us Thy truth, break to us the Bread of Life. Set our dark sorrows in a prophetic light; kindle our fading lamps of hope and courage; redeem us from sadness and loneliness. O Master, our lives are but a muddled memory of what they

ought to be; heal what is broken; add what is lacking. Keep tryst with our hearts, and at eventide let there be light. Amen.

The Vigil of Love

The loneliness that wakes with us in the morning, the wistfulness that haunts us at eventide.

ETERNAL Father, Thou knowest what is in all our hearts—the questions that haunt us betimes, the longings that make us pensive, the partings that leave us forlorn. Teach us the mighty truth that Thou livest in us and we in Thee, in whom there is no death, but only life forevermore. Make us aware that in the Shadow of Life there hides a Love greater than we can think or know, and that it hath in its keeping the loves and fellowships of our mortal years. May this vision abide in our hearts and grow, until the deep wounds of parting are healed in the assurance of reunion.

Since Thou hast given us this hope, purify us and make us worthy of its promise. Search us this day, O Lord; cleanse us of all that is unholy and untrue, that we may not be unworthy of those who live in Thy clearer presence. We do not ask to see what

Thou hast veiled from us here below, but only that no stain of sin or shame may blur in us a hope which turns our sorrow into prayer. This must be in accord with Thy wise and holy will, whatever else Thy wisdom may hide from us for our greater good.

Lord, in Thy loving-kindness we trust, content to toil in the fields of time, awaiting the will of Him who is able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or dream. Unto Him be the praise of our obedience, and the thanksgiving of our love, until the shadows flee away. In His name, Amen.

The Answerer

Too little have we sought Thee; too long have we struggled and stumbled alone.

O LIGHT unfading, Love unfailing, Thou hearest ere we speak and answerest before we call; awaken our dull spirits to be with Thee face to face. Come in Thy mercy to our guilt, in Thy might to our temptations, in Thy pity to our sorrow, we humbly pray. Show us that not every vision fades, and that these little, infinite human souls have yet a higher life. Oh, make us wise with the wisdom of prayer, and grant us a listening and obedient will.

Thou hast ordained that Thou shouldst be inquired of, yet in Thy mercy Thou never leavest us alone in our prayer. Every true and tender thought is of Thy inbreathing, every holy desire is the prompting of Thy spirit. Lord, we thank Thee for those hours when Thou didst gloriously answer our prayer, and light fell upon our path; and no less for those other hours when we asked amiss, or our requests were long de-

layed, since we learned Thy will thereby.

Too little have we sought Thee, O God; too long have we struggled and stumbled alone, when Thou wert near and eager to help. Forgive our blindness and neglect, and open in our hearts a fountain of prayer for our cleansing. Thou Balm for our woes, Thou Answerer of our cries, teach us how to pray for the health of our souls and the help of our fellows; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Those Gone Before

"Those who love God never meet for the last time."

FATHER immortal, whose mercy endureth forever, we remember to-day with exalted thanksgiving and joy those who walked with us here in other days, and who are now in Thy perfect Society above; beseeching Thee that we may know that they live in Thee there as we live in Thee here; that our tender love for them and their undying love for us meet in Thee, in whom there is no death; that so the Eternal Life may be real and availing to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Faith and Life

For clear thinking and right feeling, which bear fruit in noble ways of living.

ETERNAL Father, in Thy presence we live our fleeting lives, upheld by Thy power, embosomed in Thy goodness, led by Thy truth. Make Thy love real to us here that we may the better realize it always and everywhere. Grant us, under Thy high and hospitable roof, the quiet and confidence that make for clear thinking and right feeling, which may bear fruit in noble living. Give our wandering minds a Divine direction; lead us to the mount of purification and show us the joy of those who seek righteousness and the vision of the pure in heart.

Take from us, O Lord, if only for a brief time, all distraction of mind, all confusion of perplexity, that we may see the heights from whence cometh our strength. Touch our minds with noble desires and pure aspirations; lead us in the paths of righteousness, for Thy name's sake. Teach us a more delicate justice, a more sympathetic

judgment, a wiser pity; and, above all, fill our hearts with a great, Christ-given kindness. In thought, in word, in deed, make us disciples of Him who lived the life of Love.

Enable us, by Thy grace, to rise above our daily lot and lay hold of what is Eternal. Through all the changing scenes of life, through its bafflements, its sickness, it sorrow, and its joy, teach us to make Thy wiser will our own. Take our spirits into Thy holy temple, that our earthly life may be lived by the strength and in the light of Thy presence. So, by Thy mercy, we shall know the truth that emancipates and the love that consecrates. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Consecration

Make us little brothers of the Lord Jesus.

O GOD our Father, show us that we are Thine, and that we cannot attain our real life until we give ourselves wholly to Thee. Deliver us from self-service, and from the misery of a careless and half-hearted devotion, in which we are left to struggle in a never-ending war between our lower and our higher selves. Endue us with a passionate desire for a complete consecration, that our life in all its relations may be Thine: make us little brothers of the Lord Jesus.

Accept our prayer, our Father; accomplish Thy will in us. Teach us that the yearning within us is Thy spirit, and that if we follow its light in Thy face we shall see light. Help us to read the trials of life not as the accidents of earth, but as a divine discipline for the making of our souls. Grant us victory over dark moods and faithless fears, and bring us at last to the vision where faith and truth are blended; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Children

"Suffer little children to come unto Me."

OUR Father-Mother God, who didst reveal Thyself in the home and the life of a little Child, to Thy altar of Love we bring ourselves and our children, bowing together and lifting up our hearts in prayer and song, praising Thy holy name. Bless all little children, we humbly pray; give them health of body, purity of mind, and joy in work and play. Help us so to live that the little ones intrusted to us may trust Thee, and walk in Thy ways. By Thy gentleness make us gentle one to another, and to birds and beasts and little wild things that share with us the mystery of life. Reveal Thyself to us anew as a little child in our hearts, and let us trust that heart with Thee; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ascension Day

"He ascended far above all heavens, that He might fill all things."

ALLELUIA! Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us be the glory of our faith, but unto Thee, and to Him in whom, through Thee, the vision was fulfilled, and unto the innumerable company of those who have mediated the glory to us through the ages.

Alleluia! Our mortal life, so fleeting and troubled, is exalted above the Shadow; death, so lonely and strange, is left far below, outsped and defeated; and the world Unseen and Eternal is made real and radiant, near, homelike, and blessed.

Alleluia! Love on earth is linked with Love Eternal, and the Truth of Faith is a tie uniting us in holy fellowship with those who have ascended from the moral battlefields of time; in Him who brought Life and Immortality to light.

Alleluia! Not unto us, O Lord, but unto Him who hath loved us and redeemed us from dark fatality and

put a song in our hearts, be glory, honor and dominion, in the Church militant and the Church triumphant, forever more. Alleluia! Amen.

The Victory

"Fear not, I have overcome the world."

O LOVE that cannot let us go, Revealer of truth and Redeemer of the soul, who hast promised that we can overcome inner discord and outward disaster by the power of an endless life; grant us Thy grace that we may find in Thee and in our own souls that which will enable us to endure and triumph over anything that life or death can do to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the shadow of death found the master light of all our seeing, and in the mystery of the Cross revealed the meaning of life; in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

Social Penitence

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

O MERCY of God, while we confess the sins that mar our inner peace, let there be prayer and fasting for the dark social sins that make human life a hell. While we beseech Thee to heal our sorrows and the bitter stab of death, grant us broken and contrite hearts for the sin of war, which desolates humanity and leaves a trail of skeletons across the earth. Show us that we cannot find rest in Thee, our Father, while we have no repentance for racial rancors and the bigotry that blinds us to brotherhood. Clothe us in sackcloth and ashes, O God, for the sin of schism which divides Thy church and makes it impotent; for littleness of mind and pettiness of soul. Forgive the hollow words upon our lips while we are unjust to our fellow men, and crucify Thy sons to serve our greed and pride. Suffer us a little longer, O Pity of God, that we may turn from the sins that hide Thee from us and delay the coming of Thy kingdom; we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Whitsunday

"Tongues like as of fire."

GOD of the Rushing Wind and the Flaming Tongues, we pray for Thy Church of many names, so beset and bewildered in a new and confused time. Heal it of ancient schisms, we pray Thee; purge it of pride, and renew the vision grown dim in its heart. Teach us, O Lord, that it is not by might, not by power, but by Thy Spirit that the Gospel will run and be glorified through us, sending Thy light and Thy truth into the dark places of the earth.

Spirit of Light and Power, at whose altar we bow, rekindle a heroic and mighty faith in the heart of Thy Church: let not the gates of Hell prevail against it. May it be baptized anew with the spirit of unity, the flame of vision, and the sacrificial passion of Christ, that its stammering voice may become a redeeming anthem in a discordant world; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Evangel

"Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations."

ALMIGHTY and Everliving God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hast taught us by Thy holy prophets, which have been since the world began, that Thou art our Father and all men our brethren; move upon the heart of Thy church, we beseech Thee, that it may obey Thy high command to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to every race and nation, until all peoples shall hear, each in its own tongue, the wonders of Thy love for the children of men.

O Thou who art the Light of the world, the Desire of all nations, the Shepherd of ages and the Father of races, unite and revive Thy church that Thy light may shine through it into the darkness, until Thy Cross of Love shall draw all people unto Thee; that so there may be one holy kingdom of righteousness and peace, one God and Father of all, above all, through all, and in all; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Brother. Amen.

The Lamp of Truth

"Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good."

GOD of Light, Lord and Giver of Life, who hast sent us to seek the truth, and hast promised that it shall make us free, we praise Thee for the increase of knowledge, the shining of Thy truth in the minds of men. Forbid that we should fear the truth, but search for it, rejoicing in its light and power, yielding our spirits to its beauty and blessing and guidance.

Spirit of Truth, save us from an ignorant faith and an unbelieving knowledge; illumine our minds with a revelation of Thyself, the source of the good and the true. May those who teach and those who learn have fellowship in Thy love, studying in humility of spirit and with obedient hearts, that they may know the truth that is hidden from the vain and haughty.

Amid all learning, O Lord, teach us the love of righteousness and the art of helping our fellow souls. May our zeal for truth be seen alike in conserving the treasures of the past and in our quest of new light, but above all

in our desire to heal the hurt and heart-ache of humanity; in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

Foregleams

"It doth not yet appear what we shall be."

GOD of Might and Majesty, Lord of Life and Death, by whose mercy we have a swift and awful span of years, beginning in mystery and ending in darkness; Thou hast set us in a world of love and labor and laughter, of pity and prayer and pain, where there is truth to seek, joy to win, and beauty passes with the sun on her wings. Reveal Thy Son in us, O God, that we may know the meaning of our brief life upon earth, ere the night fall and the day is done. Grant us Thy grace that we may make our fleeting days an adventure of faith, a sacrament of love, and a prophecy of a life that shall endless be; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life. Amen.

The Healer

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

O GOD, merciful and mighty, Giver of life and Fountain of health, heal the hurts of our hearts and the ills of our bodies by the power of Thy cleansing and renewing grace. If we have been ignorant or careless of Thy laws of health, if we have allowed our spirits to become a prey to worry, fear or despair, if we have forgotten Thee, our Divine Physician, grant us Thy forgiveness, and help us to find in Thy loving power our health of body and our joy of soul.

Restore to Thy church, we beseech Thee, the gift of healing; dwell within it, through Thy Spirit of Love and Truth and Power, that it may minister to all the needs of mankind. Inspire and direct all study and research to the discovering of Thy laws of health, the defeat of disease, and the relief of pain. Bless all physicians and nurses who attend the suffering; grant them faith and skill and

tenderness in their labors for those who wait in the house of pain.

Sanctify Thy people, O God; sustain and comfort them in suffering and sorrow, in weakness and weariness, in life and death; in the name of Him who bore our infirmities and triumphed over all our ills, even Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Silence

"Be still, and know that I am God."

O ETERNAL Stillness who art ever near us, when we go into the silence, strip our minds of all pretense, and selfishness, and sluggishness, lift off thought after thought, passion after passion, till we reach the innermost depth, and open the door of that little sanctuary where none may enter with us but Thyself; when we remember how short a time and we were not at all, how short a time again and we shall not be here; when we look out into the night sky, with its awful quiet, its stately march of stars, its ancient forms of light, and think how little we know except Thy eternity and the mysteriousness of life; a Presence is close about our soul and a voice of gentle stillness whispers within: *O God, art Thou ever as near as this, and we do not know Thee?* Amen.

Trinity Sunday

"These three are one."

IMMORTAL Love, rich in Truth, radiant in Beauty, wonderful in Wisdom, we praise Thee for the manifoldness of Thy manifestation in the order of the world and in the heart of man. But above all we praise Thee for the unveiling of Thyself in the home and the family, as the creative love of a Father, the brooding beauty of a Mother, and the unfolding life of a Child, exalting the deepest love of life into a sacrament of revelation. O help us to live as the sons of Thy will, born of Thy redeeming love, in the consecration of Thy Spirit, making the home an altar of vision and prophecy. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

The Oversoul

Let all barriers fall that separate us from Thee and from one another.

FATHER all merciful, Thy glory is upon us in the splendor of the world; unite our hearts in the sacrament of adoration and thanksgiving. As we worship together, let all barriers fall that separate us from Thee and from one another. Because our littleness needs Thy greatness, and our weakness Thy strength, we wait for the breath of Thy spirit, like a wind from the eternal hills, pure and refreshing. Reveal Thyself to us, O Lord; kindle our spirits with the visions that make life radiant with meaning and prophecy.

Reverently, O God, we give ourselves to Thee in a new dedication, in response to Thy goodness and loving-kindness. Fill our minds with light and hearts with love, that we may serve Thee with patient faith and joyous confidence. Whatever be Thy will for us, build our little lives into Thy kingdom of spiritual fellowship and fraternal righteousness. Make

our days bright with Thy presence, rich in the fruits of the spirit, and tender in human ministry, that our lives may be fragrant with Thy praise.

Lord, in a day of confusion and strife, when broken voices murmur through the world, keep us steadfast in Thy fellowship. Use us as Thou wilt, our hands to do Thy work, our lips to speak Thy truth, our lives to be gospels of Thy mercy; in the name of Him who loved us, gave Himself for us, and evermore leads us in the way everlasting, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

The Home of the Soul

Thou art our dwelling-place, from one generation to another.

ETERNAL God, in Thy hand rest the races and the ages; Thine are the streaming generations flowing through time. Thy eternity underlies our fleeting days, else our lives were indeed as a tale that is told. Lord God, Thou art our dwelling-place from one generation to another; in Thee the dead, the living, and those yet unborn are united in one destiny.

Teach us, our Father, that our cry after Thee is Thy cry in us, awakening our souls. O make us sharers of Thy eternal life, Thy truth in our minds, Thy law in our wills, Thy love a tide of compassion lifting us to beauty, power and joy. Lord, we are sent from Thee and return to Thee; while it is day may we rejoice in the light, serving Thy holy will.

God Eternal, we praise Thy holy name, who art the hope of our hearts and the home of our souls forever; to whom be glory and honor, thanksgiving and adoration, world without end; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

The Abundant Life

Live Thou in us triumphantly, to cleanse, to exalt, to comfort and command.

FATHER of our spirits, Shepherd of all who walk our mortal way, consecrate us anew as we come from many scattered ways to unite in the fellowship of worship. O Thou who art the Beyond that is within, the Truth which men fear is too good to be true, teach us to trust Thy knowledge of us rather than our knowledge of Thee. Show us that mystery is the shadow of truth, and that it is foolish to doubt Thee, since Thou Thyself art the answer to the problems which baffle us.

Instead of trying to understand Thee, teach us, O Lord, to yield our spirits to Thee, and live only to express Thy spirit and to fulfill Thy will. May the image of Jesus—pure, heroic, lovely—live in our hearts, as we remember how, from the Cradle to the Cross, he obeyed the call of the Spirit. So may his spirit become the power and passion of our lives, making us disciples of his pity, his purity, his constant trust in Thee, his readiness to forgive, his healing sym-

pathy, his unconquerable hope and joy.

Whatever else Thy wisdom may deny us, grant us, Our Father, the faith that makes us victorious in the fiery discipline of failure and the terrible temptation of success. Let Thy abundant life flow into our lives to cleanse, to heal, to exalt, to command, that our days may be fruitful in goodness, and Thy truth become a revelation of character. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Guided Life

Shadows fall, and we do not see their meaning; Thou leadest us in a way we know not.

OUR Father, we thank Thee that all souls, even the humblest and the most sinful, are precious unto Thee. Not a sparrow falleth to the ground without Thy notice, and in Thy sight we are of more value than many sparrows. Show us anew that our little lives have value to Thee, even when we are least worthy in our own eyes, and of least worth to our fellows. Speak to our hearts, O God; tell us that we are Thine.

Our confidence is not in ourselves, O Lord, but in Thee; teach us that in our way through life we are not unguided. By Thy law, by Thy love we have been led thus far on our journey; let memory come to the aid of faith. As Thou dost bring the world through sunshine and tempest, making calm and storm to fulfill Thy word, so wilt Thou bring us through joy and sorrow; and if we trust Thee we shall find in it all a heavenly dis-

cipline, and a vision of Thy face at last.

Shadows fall, and we see not their meaning; we see nothing. Thou leadest us in a way we know not, where no path is save that made by Thy feet. Thus do we walk with Thee in our mortal life, divinely led while blindly following. Lead us, O Lord, at the end of the way, when we take our lonely path in the falling daylight; and may we find the gate of Thy house open to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

When We Are Old

"Even to white hairs I will carry thee."

ETERNAL God, thou art older than the earth, yet Thou growest not old; more ancient than the heavens, yet Thy strength does not fail. We whose life is but a day and whose heart and flesh faileth, lift up our hearts in hope, trusting a love that knoweth no end. Though from age to age the vision changes, yet Thou abideth, Thou ever-faithful God, our consolation and joy.

Unto Thee, O God, is all our dream and desire, and though our life decline, and its glory be as a fading flower, yet are we in Thy hand. Upon those who feel the weight and infirmity of the years, shine Thou with Thy gentlest light. At the end, O God, compose our spirits for a change of worlds, and give us rest in the Everlasting Arms; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

According to Thy Will

Earth and its fullness are not enough; our hearts hunger for a love beyond life.

MERCIFUL Father, to Thy holy will we would bow, not grudgingly, not in hard necessity, but gladly, because Thy will is love. Lift the veil from our eyes that we may see what life may be, and will be, when men obey Thy law of love and live together in Thy kingdom of joy and good will. Teach us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee, that, as in heaven, so in our lives, Thy will may be fulfilled. Increase our faith in the slow out-working of Thy wise, eternal purpose, and make us Thy fellow-workers while it is day, ere the night fall.

Earth and its fullness are not enough; our hearts hunger for the truth that sets us free, and the love that is more than life. Grant us inward sustaining, even the bread of life that cometh down from above, as daily manna from Thy hand. Help us to forgive those who sin against us, lest we lose the wonder and joy

of Thy forgiveness. Fortify us in temptation, when we are enticed by our own desires; and deliver us from the shadow and stain of evil which hides Thy face from us, leaving us to walk a lonely and troubled way.

Fulfill in us, O Lord, those dreams of purity and of truth which haunt us evermore; make real to us the eternal life in the midst of time, that our days may be measured by our growth in wisdom of heart. Let it be unto Thy servants according to Thy holy will; and unto Thee, our Father and our Redeemer, the Lord of the living and the Refuge of the dying, be praise and glory for ever and ever. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Valley of the Shadow

The Eternal God is thy dwelling-place; underneath are the everlasting arms.

O GOD our Father, only Thy infinite pity is equal to the infinite pathos of human life. Friend after friend departs, following a forlorn march of dust, leaving us to walk alone. O God, our hope is in Thee; be Thou with us as our path dips down into the Valley of the Shadow, that we may fear no evil. At eventide let there be a bridge of sunset into the eternal day.

Lord, leave us not to mere thought-dreams; give us Thyself in our hearts, Thy Life in our life. Show us that the death of our Lord made Him the Lord of death; and as we cherish in our hearts the image of those we love, so Thou dost keep us in Thy great Father-Heart. Hear our cry, O God, and make our life deeper, richer, and more radiant, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Life Immortal

Thou art Life Eternal, and we live only as we live in Thee and Thou in us.

GOD all-glorious, ever-blessed, forever self-giving; we come from Thee, we belong to Thee, we are destined for Thee. Thou art the Life Eternal, and we live only as we live in Thee and Thou in us. Apart from Thee, O God, there is no real and enduring life. Take these fugitive and fragmentary days, we humbly pray, and lift them into the rhythm and wonder of Thy abiding life.

Grant us, O God, to the measure of our capacity, the joy of Thy self-giving love, Thy moral creativeness, Thy spiritual fellowship. Though our outward man perish, may our inward man be renewed day by day, until Death itself is dead, and this dim mortal has put on immortality. Redeem us to Thyself, O Lord; by Thy grace reckon us dead unto sin and alive unto Thee forevermore.

Teach us, O God, that we live in Thee here and hereafter; show us that

the love we know on earth abides in Thee. Take from our hearts all that hinders love, or mars fellowship, that we may know the glory and prophecy of our lives. Unite us with Thyself, and with those we have loved, in the holy communion of the immortal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Benediction

Our Father in the universe, Hallowed be Thy name. Come Thy Kingdom. Let be Thy wishes, as in the universe so in earth. Give us bread our need to-day; and release our offenses as also we have released to our offenders. Do not let us enter into worldliness, but split us from error; because Thine is the kingdom, power and glory, from ages to ages. Sealed in truth.

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